

## Water experts meet in Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — International water experts Wednesday concluded a two-day conference on desalting of sea water in the framework of the Middle East peace process, the government said. The meeting was apparently meant to prepare for a similar conference later this month in which Israelis have been openly invited to the Gulf region for the first time. An government statement said the meeting involved experts "from several countries" defining areas of study and development projects in the desalination of water for household use. The statement described the meeting as "an offshoot of the Middle East peacemaking process" and said the outcome so far was "positive and encouraging." No further details were given. An Omani Foreign Ministry official said an Israeli team, due in Muscat to prepare for the April 17-18 conference, did not come. He refused to say why. Water experts from Arab countries, Israel, and sponsors of the peace process are expected to attend the multilateral conference later this month on water shortages in the Middle East.

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# Suicide car-bomber kills seven in Afula

AFULA (Agencies) — A car-bomb, apparently ignited by a suicide attacker, exploded next to a bus taking on Israeli high school students Wednesday, and officials said eight people were killed and about 40 wounded. The Islamic (Hamas) Resistance Movement claimed responsibility in reprisal for the Hebron Mosque massacre.

The explosion erupted about 12:30 p.m. in the centre of Afula, a northern Israeli city surrounded by Arab villages and located near the occupied West Bank town of Jenin 70 kilometres northwest of occupied Jerusalem.

Witnesses said they saw a huge flash when a car parked about three metres from the bus exploded. Many of the victims were teenagers from two nearby junior high schools where some classes had let out.

Police and hospitals said at least eight people were dead and 50 injured.

Hamas said it carried out the attack to avenge the massacre of some dozens of Arabs by a Jewish settler or settlers in Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque on Feb. 25.

A caller to Western news agency said Hamas used 175 kilogrammes of explosives. The caller named the suicide bomber as Raed Zakareh, 19, of Qabatayeh in the occupied West Bank. Police had no immediate comment on the Hamas claim.

Army sources said Zakareh was a fugitive wanted for membership in Hamas.

Moti Lifshitz, director of Haemek hospital, said seven people besides the car-bomber were killed and 44 others wounded, including 10 in serious condition. Most were teenagers under 18, but some victims were Arabs.

## U.S. wants Arafat to condemn attack

THE UNITED STATES Wednesday urged Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to condemn the car-bombing in Afula.

"We certainly hope that Chairman Arafat would condemn this act of violence," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry.

"The language would be of the chairman's choosing. But it would be helpful if he expressed himself on this incident," he said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres conceded that "it is clear that when an incident like this happens support for the peace process dwindles." But he and other officials signalled they would shoulder ahead with peace talks.

Like the killings in Hebron, which took place inside a mosque on a day of prayer in the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Afula attack resonated all the more intensely in Israel because of the teenage casualties and because it came on the eve of Holocaust day, when Israel mourns the killing of Jews at the hands of Nazi Germans.

Opponents of the peace talks organised demonstrations in numerous cities. In Afula, students chanted "death to Arabs" and "Baruch Goldstein, we love you," Goldstein carried out the Hebron attack.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the leader of the right-wing Likud party, called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to suspend the talks just as the PLO did after the Hebron massacre.

Police forces were sent into nearby Arab villages to protect residents from reprisal attacks. Residents of the occupied ter-

Continued on page 5



Paramedics cover a body next to the bus which was hit by a car-bomb on Wednesday in the Israeli town of Afula (AFP photo)

## Jerusalem inseparably linked to Islam — Crown Prince

Prince urges religious scholars to promote positive thinking, highlight Islamic ties

### 3-day meeting decries U.S. stand on Holy City

AMMAN — (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday called on Muslim and Christian scholars to promote the scope of Christian-Muslim dialogue and to highlight Islam's position vis-a-vis Jerusalem.

Addressing a three-day meeting on Jerusalem which ended at the King Abdullah Mosque Wednesday, Prince Hassan said scholars also had the duty to clarify Islam's positive relations with the Christians throughout the ages.

The meeting coincided with preparations by some people (in the west) to observe the 3,000th year of "founding" Jerusalem, Prince Hassan said.

"We have to discuss and prove by science and research that Jerusalem existed before David and after him," the Crown Prince said. "We do not talk about this in mere rhetoric or in an emotional manner. We seek to remind the world of the historic eras which are linked together starting from



the Canaanites and the other Arabs," the Crown Prince said in an address to the 40 scholars gathered at Basman Palace.

"I wanted to talk to you today about what we can call divine sovereignty over Jerusalem that does not conflict with political sovereignty. I would like to point out that divine sovereignty derives its dignity and esteem from its value and from the morals of

the faithful who believe in it," Prince Hassan said. "In this context, we can only express pride in the Al al-Bait University, which is due to embark on the experiment of setting up an institute for Christian studies," he noted.

"We hope this institute, (the first of its kind in the region), would yield good results because we believe that the time has come for the world to realise that this nation has always been oriented towards promoting culture," the Crown Prince said.

Addressing the delegates, Prince Hassan said: "You have to enhance the concept of the holiness of the city of Jerusalem and promote dialogue among the religions and reaffirm the status of the Holy City for the Christians and Muslims."

"We are facing a historic moment entitled 'survival of the more competent' in ex-

(Continued on page 5)

## Assad seeks to revive peace talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stressed during their talks in Cairo the need to reactivate the Arab track of peace talks with Israel, a Syrian official said Wednesday.

Mohammed Khair Al Wadi, editor of the government daily Tishreen who accompanied Mr. Assad during his visit to Cairo, said the Syrian leader as saying Israel was trying to foil the peace process by trying to arrange separate and secret deals with Arabs.

Such pacts could not bring peace to the region, Mr. Wadi said. He did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by name.

Tishreen said that the Cairo summit had improved chances of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Tishreen also said the Syrian stand by Syria and Egypt would "fortify Arab ranks against any Zionist penetration attempts."

Syria has long called for a comprehensive peace settlement, meaning that it opposes separate moves towards peace by each of the Arab parties involved. However, it has not condemned outright the Israeli-PLO peace accord reached in September.

It also backed two other deals signed in Cairo to pave the way for implementation of the accord, but Damascus strongly condemned the PLO of abandoning Palestinian rights and dealing a blow to Arab coordination.

Mr. Assad on Tuesday wrapped a two-day visit to Egypt.

Negotiations between Syria and Israel have been at an

impasse since the opening of the Madrid peace conference in October 1991, stalled over the issue of the Golan Heights.

Egypt, which has strong ties with Damascus, supported the PLO-Israel peace deal for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho which was signed in Washington in September following secret talks in Norway.

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(Continued on page 5)

## Berlusconi party threatens to force new elections

ROME (R) — Media magnate Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party threatened on Wednesday to force another general election if federalist leader Umberto Bossi persisted in blocking talks on formation of a new government.

Forza Italia accused Mr. Bossi of changing his ideas by the day and betraying the wishes of voters.

"It is not a popular republic where the popular will can be betrayed by the first party leader who wants to preserve his slice of power without caring a damn about the country's problems," its statement said.

Newspapers on Wednesday published editorials and comments from ordinary Italians slamming Mr. Bossi.

"It will be left to the voters to wipe out the old-style politics so dear to the honourable Bossi," the statement added.

Mr. Berlusconi on Tuesday broke off government talks with Northern League leader

Mr. Bossi, pushing hard for a firm commitment to federalism as the price for his support, argues that this league is the biggest party in the Freedom Alliance, with some 120 of its 366 seats in the 630-member Chamber of Deputies (Lower House).

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"By breaking off his dialogue with Bossi, Berlusconi has freed us from one of the most degrading spectacles in recent Italian political life," La Stampa newspaper commented.

League Senator Francesco Speroni on Wednesday accused Mr. Berlusconi of acting as prime minister, in defiance of all the rules of the constitution," Mr. Speroni said in a statement.

The league announced it would hold talks with the Centrist Pact for Italy, among the election losers, on a constituent assembly to give the country a federal structure.

But pact leader Mario Segni said he had not heard from the league and could not say if or when any talks would take place.

The Freedom Alliance, which also includes the neo-Nazi National Alliance plus two smaller centrist groups, won an absolute majority in the lower house.

But the formation of Italy's 53rd post-war government looks set to be a tortuous process with the Berlusconi-Bossi rift putting matters on hold until parliament convenes

on April 15.

"Parliament's first task will be to elect speakers of its two houses who must then confer with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on the nomination of a prime minister with the task of attempting to stitch together a government.

Political commentators said they believed that the Freedom Alliance would eventually be able to form a government but added that delay seemed inevitable with the administration unlikely to take office before mid-May.

It may also be flawed by the antagonism shown by Mr. Bossi and neo-fascist Gianfranco Fioi, the other partner in Mr. Berlusconi's alliance. "I don't want a government which Bossi brings down as soon as he sees something he doesn't approve of — like perhaps the first time we make a law which helps the south," Mr. Fioi said.

## AMMAN-LOS ANGELES

### THREE WEEKLY FLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY	DEPARTURE	05h45	THURSDAY	05h55	SATURDAY	23h55
	ARRIVAL	19h25		19h25		SUNDAY

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## Gaza and Jericho Palestinians await arrival of police

RAFAH, occupied Gaza Strip (R) — With Israeli soldiers and police hauling away their gear, Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are waiting for the vanguard of a police force to replace them.

Wrangling at Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) talks in Cairo on the date for implementing an Israeli withdrawal is holding up the arrival of a core group of Palestinian officers.

But both Israeli and PLO officials on the ground agree on the need for the swift deployment of Palestinian forces in Jericho and the Gaza Strip where there is no law, little order, a departing occupying power and lots of guns.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat plans to deploy between 8,500 and 10,000 men to police the nearly two million Arabs of the territories, the bulk of them in Gaza, said Ziad Al Reif, a Palestinian police commander sent here three months ago from Egypt to prepare the ground.

So far he commands only 76

men, he told journalists in a rare interview as he waited for a group of Palestinian expellees and fugitives to return through this border crossing with Egypt on Tuesday evening.

He had expected a core group of seven commanders to arrive here on Wednesday to plan for a larger deployment with the departing Israelis.

He and a group of Gaza PLO leaders toured a police station and billet vacated by Israeli police on Tuesday. But the men who are to occupy it are unlikely to come for a while.

PLO officials said the commanders might not arrive for several days. Palestinian negotiators in Cairo want Israel to give a firm date for withdrawing its soldiers, not just equipment, from Gaza and Jericho.

Under the September peace agreement withdrawal and a handover to Palestinian authorities should have been completed by April 13, but Israeli officials now doubt this can be met.

## Zvili: Syria has full U.S. backing on Golan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration supports Syria's claim to the Golan Heights, but Israel is not prepared to surrender all of the strategic territory in exchange for a peace treaty, a top official in Israel's ruling Labour Party said Tuesday.

"We are prepared to make concessions on the Golan, but not to go down completely," Nissim Zvili, the party's secretary-general, said in outlining the status of Arab-Israeli negotiations on all four fronts to a B'nai B'rith conference.

At this point, Mr. Zvili said, "I cannot see the way to find a compromise" with Syria.

In exchange for peace, Syria demands a total Israeli pullout from the territory Israel seized in the 1967 Mideast war.

Mr. Zvili asserted that a peace agreement with Jordan, that would launch Israel and the Kingdom on economic cooperation, needs only a green light from King Hussein to be signed.

And he said Israel would withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon within 12 hours if Lebanon guarantees the security of north Jordanian villages from Israeli bombardment as well as the safety of a largely Christian Lebanese force that has patrolled border.

"When it has nothing to do," he said.

In the Israeli soldiers are allies with Lebanon, who are killed in the buffer zone.

On the front, prepared to go into the territory, over "we are taking control," Mr. Zvili said.

But while Central Asian Muslims are "gradually proceeding to return to their Islamic roots," they have not attained political rights, he said.

"It's up to the parties themselves to sort out the relationships among the issues of peace, withdrawal and security," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"As the president and the secretary said, we are going to be active in working with the parties on this track."

The official noted he had not heard Mr. Zvili's speech and response to questions.

## Prince praises army's innovative skills

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday toured several construction and water harvest projects.

Prince Hassan commenced his tour at the Armed Forces' Al Hussein workshops where he inspected work progress. After seeing an out-of-service military tank turned into a bulldozer for agricultural use by the workshops, Prince Hassan commended the performance of the Armed Forces in using modern technology to improve the conditions and performance of machinery.

He visited an exhibition of locally-produced spare parts and was familiarised with several projects carried out by the army in cooperation with Jordanian universities and institutions, such as a remote-control plane project carried out in cooperation with the Jordan University of Science and Technology.



Prince Hassan also visited several dam projects carried out by the Royal Engineers force in various parts of Jordan, such as Al Geelat Dam, located 100 kilometres south-east of Amman, which, once finished, can hold more than 90,000 cubic metres of water.

After visiting several construction projects, Prince Hassan met with representatives of Al Husseiniya town, presence of Sheikh Faisal A. Jazi and representatives of the bedouins of southern Jordan in the Lower House of Parliament.

## New Hebron mayor wants mosque opened

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The new Palestinian mayor of Hebron called on Wednesday for Israeli authorities to reopen the mosque where a Jewish settler massacred dozens of Muslim worshippers six weeks ago.

"We wish to open the mosque. It is very important and vital for the city... the tension will go down," Mustafa Natsheh said in a telephone interview.

After the Feb. 25 massacre Israel closed the site and has maintained a curfew on the old city of Hebron, where the main Jewish settler enclaves in Hebron are located, in apparent fear of revenge attacks.

Mr. Natsheh, deposed by Israeli occupation authorities in 1983, took up his post on Sunday as part of a deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on security arrangements for the West Bank city.

Under that deal, 160 armed international observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy will deploy in Hebron. Mr. Natsheh dismissed any fears for their safety following a purported threat by the Islamic Jihad to attack them.

"I don't think they are in danger. They are coming to help. So why injure them," he said.

Mr. Natsheh said he was travelling to Cairo on Wednesday to brief PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the situation.

## Islam remains strongly rooted in Central Asia

WASHINGTON (USA) — The former foreign-affairs adviser to the chairman of the Muslim Spiritual Board of Tajikistan says the former Soviet republics in Central Asia face a slow but inevitable return to the Islamic World.

"That means the old communist rule would be swept away," Sergei Gretsky told an April 4 seminar at the Wilson International Centre for Scholars.

The fundamentals of Islam are now being taught in schools in Turkmenistan. Criminal punishment is handed out for polygamy," Mr. Gretsky said.

The most Muslim countries are Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Mr. Gretsky said.

But while Central Asian Muslims are "gradually proceeding to return to their Islamic roots," they have not attained political rights, he said.

## Clashes in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Resistance fighters and pro-Israeli militiamen fought artillery and rocket duels in South Lebanon Wednesday. Security sources said one militiaman and seven civilians were wounded.

Mr. Gretsky noted the civil war erupted in Tajikistan 18 months ago. According to press reports, the communist elite that ruled Tajikistan in Soviet days defeated an insurgency led by Islamic and democratic parties.

The reports said opposition leaders were imprisoned, killed or driven into exile. More than 20,000 people are estimated to have died in the fighting in 1992 and early 1993. About 70,000 Tajiks fled to Afghanistan.

The guerrillas then responded with a sustained barrage of Katyusha rockets. One rocket destroyed a house in Beit Leil and several others crashed in nearby Bin Ibil and Dibil, where the seven villagers suffered shrapnel wounds.

## Abu Jihad's daughter symbolises peace hopes

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (AP) — A young woman with a soubriquet's voice and a page-boy haircut has become the Palestinians' most tangible sign that peace talks with the Israelis have finally begun to bear fruit.

Hanan Deek, daughter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) assassinated military chief Khalil Al Wazir, returned to the occupied territories on Tuesday with her husband Ahmad, who was deported from a West Bank village in 1988 for being active in the Palestinian uprising.

"Brothers, we win the right today for every Palestinian to return," she told hundreds of cheering well-wishers at a reception in a garden restaurant before those returning to the West Bank.

About 50 Palestinians returned to the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank Tuesday. In Hebron, activists greeted them with the black, red, white and green Palestinian flag and shots fired in the air.

In Hebron, the daughter of the late Palestinian hero seemed a bit overwhelmed by the crowd's adoration.

Two or three bodyguards protected her from the enthusiastic crowd pressing to greet her at the oasis restaurant built around a spring pool and surrounded by banana groves.

Encouraged into a small speech, the young woman in her early twenties told the celebrating people, "we are coming back for good... brothers today we entered our nation into the history books."

"I believe that if there aren't many more Baruch Goldsteins among the Israelis, we can establish good relations on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all the (occupied) territories," Mr. Barghouti said.

## Kuwait commentators cool to premier's call

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti commentators on Wednesday reacted coolly to an attack by the prime minister on political infighting in press and parliament and gave mixed reviews to news of an impending government reshuffle.

Newspaper columnists welcomed a renewed commitment to parliamentary democracy by Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah on Monday evening in his first address to the nation since the 1991 Gulf war.

Some said a well-executed reshuffle might well bring closer his vision of a more productive and self-reliant way of life in this affluent oil-exporting Gulf state of 1.5 million people.

But the columnists said the prime minister had failed to dispel an uncertain national mood because his announcement of the long-awaited reshuffle was too vague. He also did not spell out detailed policy, they said.

The possibility of a reshuffle had been rumoured for two months. It is expected to take place in the next two weeks.

The present cabinet was formed in October 1992. It includes six elected deputies — the largest number of elected parliament members ever to sit in a cabinet. The top offices of state — foreign, defence, interior — are held by members of the ruling Sabah family.

Sheikh Saad voiced support for the institution of parliament revived in 1992 after a six-year absence but said "chaotic" political practices and outspoken newspapers had spread dissension, "intellectual intimidation, insults and incitement."

Newspapers enjoying new freedoms following the lifting of censorship after the war have taken aim at almost all players in the country's political and economic life and have regularly splashed leaked confidential state documents on front pages.

## 3 Algerian Islamist leaders to be tried

TUNIS (R) — Three Algerian Muslim militant leaders, including the former head of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), are to go on trial in Algeria later this year, the Algerian newspaper Liberte said.

Liberte quoted unidentified sources as saying one of the three men, Abdul Haq Layada, would be tried in June by a special court.

It identified the other two men as Abdul Kader Hachani, provisional president of the executive office of the FIS, and Charati Yeklef, a leading FIS member. They will be tried in the third quarter of 1994.

Mr. Layada was arrested in Morocco and extradited to Algeria in late 1993. He is considered the head of the most active Islamic militant group in the suburbs of Algiers.

Mr. Hachani took over as leader of the FIS in July 1991 after the arrest of its prominent leaders a month earlier. He has been in detention since early 1992 after the army-backed authorities cancelled an election the fundamentalists were poised to win.

The special tribunals were created in late 1992 to help combat the wave of violence in which 3,200 people have been killed so far.

Mr. Yeklef was arrested in a suburb of Algiers late in 1993 for his alleged support of armed groups.

## 'FIS network found'

French police have uncovered an Algerian Muslim fundamentalist network in France and arrested two suspected members of the banned FIS. Europe 1 radio reported.

The radio said police found an arms cache belonging to the FIS and arrested the two suspected militants on March 21 in Lille in northern France.

Europe 1 quoted investigators as saying they had discovered a network which served as a logistical base for the FIS, the first of its kind on French territory.

Police seized an Israeli-made machine gun, ammunition, hundreds of false Algerian identity cards and unspecified documents. Police were looking for a third suspect, it said.

The radio added that anti-terrorism experts believed there were other such caches and networks in France but that the FIS did not plan to attack targets in France.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report.

## Expulsion suspended

A French court on Wednesday suspended an expulsion order against two Algerian teenagers sent to Algiers at the height of protests against a youth wage law.

Justiciary sources said the court in Lyon ruled the expulsion was not an emergency and must be suspended pending a final decision on whether it was justified.

They said the ruling allowed Abdul Hakim Youbel, 18, and Mouloud Malaci, 19, to return home to Lyon.

The youths, long-time residents of France, were expelled on March 22 after they were accused of stoning police and looting. Algeria has refused to let them in and they have since been stranded in the transit area in the port of Algiers.

Human rights groups have protested that they were expelled before a court could decide whether they were guilty.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop sharply and humidity will rise with winds becoming mostly northerly. In Amman, dusty weather conditions will continue.

PrAYI

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**REVAMPING THE SYSTEM:** Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday addresses a meeting attended by Minister of Education Khaled Omari and directors of education departments. Dr. Majali said that it is incumbent on educationists to draw up and implement the appropriate mechanisms to bring about the desired change to the country's educational system. The ministry has a duty to put into force the democratic policies of the government in its schools that

would raise competent generations of young people capable of coping with the requirements of the modern age, said Dr. Majali. Democracy in dealing with the students and respecting the views of all should be enhanced because it would create the proper educational climate for students and society at large, Dr. Majali added. At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Omari briefed the group on school building plans and other education-related projects (Petra photo)

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Majali opens society premises

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Wednesday inaugurated in Amman the new premises of the South Jordan Charity Society. In an opening address, Dr. Majali said the society does not aim to serve any factional purposes, but was established initially by University of Jordan students coming from south Jordan in view of the remoteness of the university from the south Jordan areas. The premises, he said, provide suitable lodgings for more than 60 students for free.

### Minister opens laboratory in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Wednesday visited Irbid Governorate where he met with Governor Fayez Al Abbadi and discussed with him health-related issues. Dr. Malhas and the governor then opened the Irbid governorate's central laboratory which will be used to examine samples sent by the governorate's health centres and private sector physicians.

### Yarmouk University, ESCWA sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A technical cooperation agreement Wednesday was signed between Yarmouk University and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) at the university in Irbid. The agreement was signed on behalf of ESCWA by its executive secretary Sabah Bakjaji, and on behalf of the university by its president, Marwan Kamal. It aims to upgrade cooperation between the university and ESCWA in all fields of research and training. The agreement provides conferences and seminars and cooperation in conducting studies on issues of common interest, in addition to exchanging expertise to various academic and scientific fields.

### 11-day workshop targets poverty

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop on income-generating projects and curbing the poverty rate in Palestinian refugee camps Wednesday was opened in Amman. Some 27 participants from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are participating in the 11-day workshop, organised by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Near East Foundation (NEF), a non-governmental organisation offering training and development programmes. The workshop aims to improve the performance of relief workers and spreading awareness of the importance of launching income-generating projects in refugee camps to tackle poverty.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

★ Italian film entitled "Fratelli E Sorelle" (Brothers and Sisters) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

★ Spanish film entitled "Los Santos Inocentes" (The Holy Innocents) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

★ Spanish film entitled "Los Santos Inocentes" (The Holy Innocents) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 5:00 p.m.

★ German film entitled "Abgeschminkt (Making Up)" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday at 5:00 p.m.

★ Musical performance by "Mirage" band at Prince Hassan Auditorium at the University of Jordan on Thursday and Friday at 5:30 p.m.

### FUN FAIR

★ First Annual Care Fun Fair at the Amman Baccalaureate School on Friday (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) includes games for children, food concessions, and other activities. At 5:00 p.m. The Dead Sea Fish-Club Band will present a performance — proceeds to benefit the handicapped.

### EXHIBITIONS

★ The Jordanian Comprehensive Medical Fair '94 (displaying medical and drug industries, medical appliances, computer and X-Ray equipment, and dental equipment) at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348)

★ Exhibition of Zaloum foodstuff products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ The Second International Stationery Exhibition at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).

★ Exhibition by Egyptian artist Shalabiya Ibrahim at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 678589).

★ Exhibition of spring paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artist Perween Al Sarraf at Abu'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) (Tel. 519861).

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Hayfa Habeeb and Farouk Hassan at Alia Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.).

★ Exhibition entitled "Return to Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ "The Amman-Baghdad exhibition" by Artist Ahmad Al Shalhali at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Isam Nseirat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Jordanian herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166).

★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balka' Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).

★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Aia Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbaa. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Book exhibition at the Safeway International.

### FILM

★ Video film in English on artist Edgar Degas (part 1) (accompanied with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khaled Khreis) at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

### DRAMA

★ Comedy in Arabic entitled "The Guarantee" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

### TRIP TO SALT

★ Trip to Salt, organised by the Friends of Archaeology, includes a walking tour focusing on different architectural and archaeological sites (including the Toukan and Qaqish houses). The next stop will be Jai'ad to see ruins from the Roman and Byzantine periods as well as an Umayyad mosque. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot on Friday at 9:00 a.m. in private cars.

## Green belt planned to stem desertification

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A team of experts from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is due here towards the end of April to examine details of a planned green belt project to stem desertification on the eastern fringes of Jordan. The project is expected to be implemented shortly by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Saleeb Al Sharee', director of the ministry's Environment Department told the Jordan Times that the UNEP has given its initial consent to grant the department \$8 million to help it carry out the project.

"We plan to set up a three to five-kilometre-wide green belt of trees, shrubs and other vegetation along a 330-kilometre stretch from the north to the south of Jordan, in order to stem the encroachment of desert land westwards," said Dr. Sharee'.

"Tree, shrub and pasture land cultivation will take place on lands located between the dry or semi-desert areas; the plants will be selected to suit each area," said Dr. Sharee'.

He said the UNEP team will be taken on tours of the region to obtain first-hand look at the situation and to recommend steps to be taken

in creating the green belt which will serve as a natural barrier to the desert.

Dr. Sharee' said that the ministry will enlist the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation as well as the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in implementing the scheme.

He confirmed an earlier statement by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ahmad Akaileh who said that the ministry was currently working on a suitable mechanism for the implementation of the project which will be executed over several years.

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Both the executive and legislative authorities are debating the issue, but lawmakers maintain that the session is most likely to convene in late April, especially since some international sources, they say, are pressuring the government to endorse the sales tax draft legislation.

According to Minister of Finance, Sami Gammoh, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) refuses to negotiate with the government about the country's national debt until the sales tax draft law is endorsed. "The IMF considers the draft legislation an indispensable pillar for economic reform," Mr. Gammoh was quoted as saying in Al Dustour daily on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Deputy Deeb Abdulla (Amman First District) told the Jordan Times that members of Parliament were meeting with government figures Wednesday evening to finally agree on a date to convene the House's extraordinary session, which, according to the deputy, would have the sales draft legislation at the top of its agenda.

## Extraordinary House session expected towards late April

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is expected to hold its extraordinary session during the last week of April, parliamentary sources disclosed Wednesday.

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Meanwhile, the House Judiciary Committee is reviewing two approved draft legislations after receiving complaints from different sectors concerning the "injustice" of some articles of the tenancy and municipal councils' draft laws.

The House's approval of the tenancy draft law raised the disapproval of hundreds of downtown Amman traders

who charged that the draft law gives the owners the right to evict the traders from their rented properties, thus causing them (the merchants) many losses as they would have to move their businesses to other areas, which would mean losing regular customers as well as large sums of money.

Municipal council members also disapproved of the draft law on municipalities passed by the house last month, saying that they were not even consulted and that they (council members) would know better what was in the best interest of their municipalities.

Deputies have been criticised for passing the laws "irrespective of the needs and requirements of their voters," charged several members of municipal councils.

According to the Constitution, the agenda of the extraordinary session is set by a Royal Decree, which precludes deputies from raising any issue outside the agenda. According to Al Dustour, the extraordinary session will heighten the gap between legislators and the government.

## Jordan supports ALO drive to promote small industries

in the Arab World.

He called on the Arab Labour Organisation's (ALO) drive to promote small industries and traditional handicrafts in the Arab World.

Addressing the 21st Arab Labour Organisation's conference here, Labour Minister Khalid Ghzawi said that Jordan backs a report by the Arab Labour Office which urged Arab states to open the door to small and light industries which serve as tributaries that enrich socio-economic development

Small size industries in Jordan

## Balqez elected AACO chairman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian President and Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Jamal Balqez was elected chairman of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) at a recent meeting of its general assembly in Manama.

The AACO general assembly will hold its next session in Amman in mid-1995, and it entrusted Mr. Balqez to launch steps towards implementing a new pan-Arab airlines strategy through the help of a committee comprising the directors general of the Moroccan, Egyptian, Lebanese and Kuwaiti airlines.

Mr. Balqez urged Arab airlines to upgrade their cooperation and launch joint efforts to deal with new world air transport developments.

He said that he would call for a meeting of the heads of civil aviation authorities and chief executives of Arab air-

lines soon in order to draw up a pan-Arab air transport strategy to improve the Arab countries' air transport negotiating positions in dealings with European airlines.

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Mahmoud Jamal Balqez



Ceramics by Perween Al Sarraf

## A mastery of diverse ceramics styles, forms

By Ian Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A high level of craftsmanship and a thorough mastery of a diverse range of ceramics styles and forms were evident at Iraqi artist Perween Al Sarraf's exhibition, on display at the Al Abu'ad Art Gallery in Fuheis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166).

Her mosaic patterns, wall plaques, cityscapes and pottery figures blend modern abstract styles with a broad panorama of Middle Eastern themes and motifs.

Although the craftsmanship Ms. Sarraf shows in some 60 artworks she has chosen to display at the studio is uniformly of high quality, there were some rough edges in the exhibit in terms of artistic content.

A few of her pieces, such as a trio of owls, are more suitable as decorative craft items and not as pieces for display at an art gallery, where different merits apply. Displaying these pieces de-

tracted from some of her stronger, more fully-fledged art works.

Ms. Sarraf's work is commendable for its richness and sumptuousness of colour and hue, and a selection of pottery, and vase-like forms employing deep earth-brown tones with a black glaze are particularly striking.

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## ISTANBUL AND ANTALYA: 2 CLASSIC DESTINATIONS

### 1 CLASSIC AIRLINE.

Turkish Airlines

From Istanbul.

With either destination, we offer the roomy comfort of our modern fleet and

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AMMAN - ANTALYA  
(19/06 -



## Exhibition leaves deep impression on art society

By Mohammad Mashariqa

An exhibition of paintings, entitled *Writers... Painters*, has just come to a close at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman without much fanfare.

The visitors were a limited group of artists and writers



Ibrahim Nasrallah's paintings present a mood of mystery

One of the paintings by Farouq Wadi

## Lack of strong civil society impedes democracy in Arab World

### The Arab World After Desert Storm

By Mohammad Faour  
Published by the United States Institute of Peace  
Press, 176 pages

**WASHINGTON** — "There seems little chance for Western democracy to develop and prosper in the Arab World, at least in the short run," according to Mohammad Faour, author of *The Arab World After Desert Storm*. Although the Gulf War increased popular demands for democracy and raised Western expectations to high levels, it did not significantly reduce several major obstacles to the development of democracy:

— Most Arab countries lack a strong civil society — a network of independent voluntary associations such as labour unions that mediate between the government and the people — which is a hallmark of established democracies.

— Some Arab regimes continue to exert increasing control over their citizens' daily lives by using the army, the police force, and civil security agencies to control or suppress dissent.

— The governing elites are cohesive groups, often based on family or class ties, and political leadership has traditionally been "personal, authoritarian, patrimonial, and patriarchal." Also, communal and sectarian bonds, which generally work against national unity, remain strong.

— The governments themselves are by far the largest economic actors in each country, giving them another effective measure of control.

— And, finally, powerful democracies such as the United States have failed to exert "continuous, strong external support for democracy" in the Arab World.

In *The Arab World After Desert Storm*, Faour examines the Middle East in the wake of the Gulf War and speculates on changes that may occur in the next few years. The book details post-war developments in six key countries — Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

According to Faour, the human costs of the war were "appalling." Given the large number of Arab expatriates

from poorer countries working in the oil-producing countries, the war triggered a chain of events with enormous impact throughout the Middle East:

— Roughly 350,000 Palestinians were displaced from Kuwait. Most of them ended up in Jordan, causing tremendous economic disruption.

— Saudi Arabia expelled close to one million Yemeni workers. Most of these workers returned to Yemen, depriving and already weak economy of \$1.5 billion in workers' remittances through April 1991 (and more thereafter).

— Roughly 800,000 Egyptian farmers and skilled workers in Iraq returned to Egypt. Subsequently, almost one million Egyptians sought work in Saudi Arabia, replacing the expelled Yemenis.

**"The tendency... within some Western circles to ascribe to the war all sorts of beneficial effects must be corrected; in the Arab World at least, the war has created more problems than it has solved."**

— Nearly 1.8 million Iraqis, mostly Kurds, were dislocated within their own country. In addition, Faour estimates that over 100,000 Iraqis died as a result of the war and its aftereffects, and that 1.4 million Iraqis sought refuge in Iran.

Faour also cites the enormous economic costs of the conflict. War-related costs in Kuwait amounted to more than \$80 billion, not including the price of restoring the shattered environment. For Saudi Arabia, costs associated with conducting the war and related economic losses were at least \$60 billion. Jordan lost \$500 million in annual aid from the Gulf states and \$400 million in

By Richard Bastin  
Reuter

**SEVILLE, Spain** — The only living North American to have fought his way to the top in Spanish bullfighting is ready to hang up his cape after nearly 40 years of facing one of the world's most dangerous animals.

But John Fulton says that the most difficult thing he has had to deal with is not the bulls, but the prejudice of the Spanish bullfighting establishment.

Fulton, 61, who made his last stand in Mexico on April 2, has struggled throughout his career to break into the close-knit circles that dominate the bullfight or "corrida". He is not alone. The

problems faced by aspiring "toreros" are notorious in Spain, especially for foreigners.

Colombian matador Cesar Rincon had enormous trouble getting fights in Spain when he arrived, even though he was a star in his own country. He kept fighting brilliantly and eventually could not be ignored.

Fulton's own entrance into the surreal and romantic world of bullfighting began when he saw the film version of Blasco Ibanez's novel *Blood And Sand* about the rise and fall of one young Sevillano hopeful.

"It's still a marvellous movie, but when I was 12 it really impressed me. I knew then that one way or

another I had to become a bullfighter and live in Seville," Fulton said.

He first was introduced to Spain through exiled Spaniards in his native Philadelphia. One was a retired matador, who taught him some moves with the sheet he used in his barber's shop.

Eager to pursue his bullfighting interest, Fulton won a scholarship to study painting in Mexico, and it was there that he first stood in front of a bull.

"Even when you have seen them side-on, they never seem as big as they do up front," he said. A four-year-old fighting bull stands at least 1.5 metres (five feet) tall and weighs more than 500 kilos (1,100 lb). After doing the rounds of

the Mexican "novillero" or novice circuits, Fulton decided to come to Seville, where the Maestranza Ring is the unofficial capital of world bullfighting.

He arrived in 1955 with \$400 in his pocket, an American name and Mexican experience.

It took him eight years of struggle to make it to the top level, but even then things were not easy. He found it difficult to get signed up for fights because of his nationality.

"It was all too much for them, it challenged their self-respect and their pre-conceptions," Fulton said.

Shortly after becoming a fully-qualified bullfighter, he killed a bull from the legendary Miura farm as the only

success of an afternoon featuring six of the country's top matadors.

But the impresarios and critics were still not interested.

"You got the feeling that some of them saw 'American matador' on the posters and wrote their articles in advance," Fulton said.

Despite its politics of exclusion, Fulton loves bullfighting and is nostalgic for the days when toreros took bigger risks and the bulls were stronger and more powerful.

"There was real danger and real excitement — what it's all about. What we have nowadays is decaffeinated bullfighting. Rincon is one of the few guys who really gets out there and puts him

self on the line by getting close to the bull," Mr. Fulton said.

The corrida as an art form — its aficionados insist it is not sport — is in a state of crisis as it struggles to re-define itself in modern day society and fend off criticism from animal rights groups.

"I really don't believe the bull suffers too much, there's so much adrenaline involved, that neither the animal nor the matador tend to notice the pain," Fulton said.

To support his first love, Fulton was forced to look for other sources of income. He developed his painting skills and eventually opened his own gallery in Seville, which features his personal



A painting by Jamal Naji

which I had abandoned for 25 years." Wadi has published a collection of novels and a book on literary criticism.

The exhibition *Writers... Painters* could be described as one of the main art exhibitions that have left deep impression on the art society in the country.

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Nasrallah says painting has the power of attracting the viewer though it does not possess as much power as the poem or the novel in impressing readers.

Nasrallah's paintings present a mood of mystery and concealment expressed in the strange characters and subjects. He resorts to colours to express his ideas.

Nasrallah has published eight collections of his poetry and four novels, one of which was translated into English. Farouq Wadi, the third writer/painter, adopts a different method and different tools to present his works of art. He avoids abstract art in his paintings which depict oriental architecture.

Wadi says: "Since the Arab defeat in June 1967, I have not been able to touch my brush and deal with the colours, neither was I able to deal with or resort to armed struggle or to tackle the issue of class struggle. I have dedicated my past work to writing. But in recent years I felt that I have the need to express views in a different manner and hence, my decision to revert to my past interest, that is painting,

domestic interests before regional or subregional interests." This fractured "new Arab order" includes many elements:

— The economic split between the "haves" (the Gulf states) and the "have-nots" (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians) continues.

— A number of Arab states have become more dependent on the support of countries outside the region, such as the United States, Britain and France. Kuwait, for example, has reached bilateral security accords with all three countries.

— Several longstanding disputes between Arab states have become more active. For example, the border disputes between Saudi Arabia and Yemen and between Bahrain and Qatar have flared in recent months.

**Operation Desert Storm was "the equivalent of an enormous earthquake that has rearranged various features of the Arab landscape, and the aftershocks of which are rumbling still throughout the region."**

— Regional international organisations such as the Arab League, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Gulf Cooperation Council have failed to forge common positions.

— The role of Egypt and Saudi Arabia as regional powers have declined. Indeed, Saudi Arabia, "which previously mediated inter-Arab conflicts, has now become a party to regional conflicts," straining its relations with Iraq, Jordan and Yemen.

— Syria's importance in regional politics has grown, since it is "the only Arab power that constitutes a military threat to Israel." — U.S. Institute of Peace.

## American matador fought bulls, prejudice

By Richard Bastin  
Reuter

**SEVILLE, Spain** — The only living North American to have fought his way to the top in Spanish bullfighting is ready to hang up his cape after nearly 40 years of facing one of the world's most dangerous animals.

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the Mexican "novillero" or novice circuits, Fulton decided to come to Seville, where the Maestranza Ring is the unofficial capital of world bullfighting.

He has also recently finished illustrating a new book by American author James Michener, who met Fulton while painting in Seville.

Fulton's studio walls portray his life as an expatriate living in Seville. There is a picture of him and actor Peter O'Toole in matador costumes during the filming of *Lawrence Of Arabia*.

Alongside is a photocopy of a cheque payable to Fulton signed by a bullfighting aficionado named Ernest Hemingway.

There is a photo of Fulton and bullfighting legend Juan Belmonte. He was with Belmonte in 1961 when they were told that

Hemingway had committed suicide.

Belmonte said of Hemingway: "He did what he had to." A year later Belmonte killed himself.

Fulton fought his last bull in the picturesque Mexican town of San Miguel De Allende where he made his first kill nearly 40 years ago.

He sports a pony-tail in anticipation of the traditional retirement ceremony where a fellow torero will lop it off and mark the end of Fulton's days in the ring.

If he were to start again, he said he would change his name to something Spanish. "They'd have no excuse but to recognise me for who I am. Perhaps I'd call myself Juan Gallardo" — the bullfighter in *Blood And Sand*.

## How does it work?

By Jean-Claude Elias

Thanks to attractive, easy to read personal computer (PC) magazines, to more than a decade of inherited computer awareness and to countless sleepless nights spent before PC monitors, the average PC user in 1994 knows a lot about computers and data processing.

Megabytes — million bytes or characters —, megahertz (one of the units used to measure a computer's speed), MIPS (Mega Instructions Per Second) have no more secrets for PC operators. Even teenagers will tell you everything you wanted to know (but never dared to ask) about the different components of a PC-based system: keyboard, monitor, disks, central memory, multi-media, laser discs, etc..

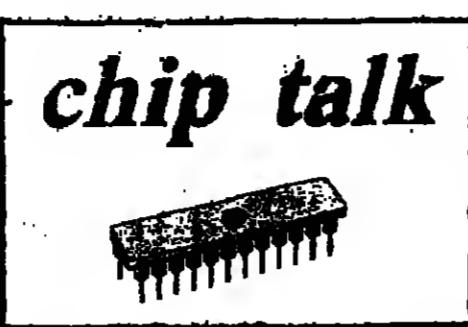
As valuable as it can be, such a level of knowledge is called "basic" by computer professionals. I would even add to it the term "commercial" for it is the kind that allows people to choose and buy the PC they need.

Beyond the layman's knowledge and the commercial level, beyond even the standard level of professional analysts, programmers and electronic engineers, is a world, unknown to most of us — the world of VLSI — Very Large Scale Integration.

We know that data is recorded on a hard disk, displayed on the monitor and printed on hard copy. We can even explain how software works, how data processing gives us perfectly prepared documents and how databases let us "crunch" information. But do we know exactly how the computer does all this internally? How does it keep all these megabytes in memory? How can it calculate, compare, sort, retrieve and store information?

Processing is possible thanks to the microchips, these tiny black silicon wafers found on electronic boards which remind us of the building blocks in a Monopoly game. Without them there would be no computing. At least not as we have come to know it.

Sophisticated manufacturing techniques allow engineers to squeeze, on a single chip, mind boggling amounts of data. Some chips are designed to store information while others perform the actual processing (calculations, comparisons, etc.). All those who study



digital electronics are perfectly aware of the theories involved in designing microchips. In other words, specialists do know about the principles of microchips manufacturing, but what remains a well preserved secret is the actual manufacturing process.

Simply put, all complicated circuits are laid on large scale drawings, large enough for the human eye to perceive and work on. Once the final stage is reached, the drawings are photographed, reduced to a much smaller scale and transferred to the silicon wafer through special ultra-violet "printing" techniques. It is precisely the reduction and transfer techniques that are the trade secrets of chips manufacturers like Intel, Motorola, Texas Instruments and others.

The chips' design, even on a human scale, is already a prowess in itself, but the reduction and manufacturing techniques are almost unbelievable. Currently, four million characters can be stored on half of a square inch area memory chip and microprocessors weighing a few grams and having a one square inch area can process 50 million instructions per second. Only a few lucky specialists in the world know exactly how this is achieved, from the manufacturing point of view. VLSI is definitely not a hobby to practice at home.

Once the limit of the matter itself (silicon or other) are reached, down to the atomic level, computer designers will start relying on parallel processing (already commercially available) whereby several processors work in parallel, at the same time, each being assigned a specific task. Nobody can even foresee the limits of parallel processing.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- The coldest region in the world is Washington Mountain in New Hampshire where temperature never exceeds 2 degrees below zero all the year round and that the thickness of snows falling on it approximately reaches 7 metres.
- One of the nobility in England held a funeral for his tame parrot on the occasion of the bird's death. The gentleman placed the parrot in a coffin surrounded by a thousand lilies. He also adorned the parrot's bill with a diamond ring.
- The law in the American city of Memphis prohibits frog croaking after 11:00 p.m.
- An American covered his car with hundreds of pennies made of brass. He himself wears a suit made of 3,568 pennies weighing about 10 kg.

★ ★ ★ ★

### LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- Don't be silly. La takon ahmak.
- Don't be against me. La takon did'ee.
- Don't be shy. La takon khajolam.
- Don't be late tomorrow. La takon akbar ghadon.
- Don't get nervous. La takon assabiyan.
- Don't do it again. La takon 'ha'is marriyan thaniya.
- Never be in a hurry. La takon a'jil.
- Never be a backbiter. La takon mughitban.
- Never be so naughty. La takon mutakabbiran.
- Never be a parasite. La takon toofidyan.
- Never be hard-hearted. La takon kasil-kab.

★ ★ ★ ★

### YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

#### UNDESCENDED TESTICLE

The testicle, or male sex organ, normally lies within the abdominal cavity before birth. By the time the male baby is born, however, it should have moved down to occupy its proper position within a special sac of skin, the scrotum. Sometimes one or both of the organs may fail to do this, and the condition is then known as an undescended testicle. Unless the testicle occupies its normal position it cannot function properly. Sometimes it can be made to descend by means of glandular treatment, but often a small operation is necessary in order to bring it down.

★ ★ ★ ★

### LAUGHTER

- BRIDEGROOM: I see the house is full of flies. Could you tell me why, my sweet-heart?
- BRIDE: Oh, that's such an easy question to answer. Don't you know we are enjoying our honeymoon nowadays?

- CUSTOMER: How much is a kilo of grapes?
- FRUIT-SELLER: Fifty piastres a cluster, separated thirty.
- CUSTOMER: OK. I want two kilos separated from those clusters, please!

★ ★ ★ ★

- WIFE: There's a thief on the floor.
- HUSBAND: (Amazed) How did he come? I can't believe it.

### YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

**HONEYMOON:** There is some disagreement on the interpretation of this dream, but the consensus appears to be that whether it was your dream or someone else's honeymoon, it is a dream of contray and signifies disappointment in love or a personal relation.

**HOLIDAY:** You will have to work hard but your efforts will be productive if you dreamt of a holiday.

**FOOTSTEPS:** If you heard footsteps in your room, you can expect to learn something to your great advantage.

★ ★ ★ ★

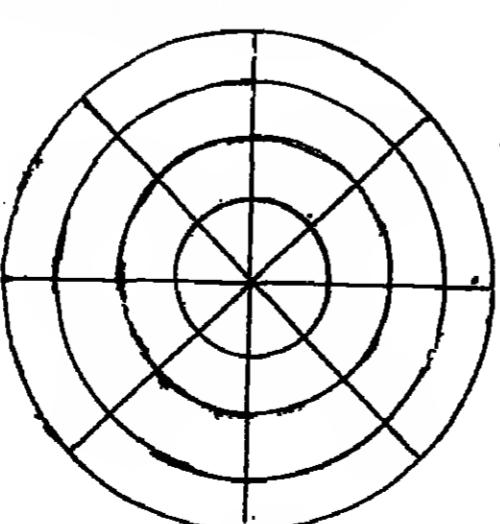
### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) What is a Basque and what is a basque?
- (2) Why is the saxophone so-called?
- (3) Who was Pluto and what is a plutocracy?
- (4) If you leave the lid off the saucepan, will the soup get more, or less, salty?
- (5) Who was Stavisky and who was Stravinsky?

★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

1. Which are there more of: seconds in a week or feet in 100 miles?
2. Using the digits 1 to 9, and just one mathematical "sign", make an expression exactly equal to 100.
3. Dots: Can you place eight dots on the diagram below in such a way that there are two dots on each straight line and two dots on each circle?



## Living gold

By E. Yaghi

Hani was a quilt maker who lived in a small village somewhere in the Jordan Valley. When young, he spent a great deal of his free time with his best friend Elyas. Together, on warm days, they would go out into the fields and sit and discuss life, religion and the future. The worst thing about Hani was that he could see no faults in his friend who remained his ideal until one day some money was stolen from Elyas' house. It was then Elyas signed a complaint that he suspected Hani, for as he stated, "he was the only one who knew where I hid my money."

Try as he would to no avail, Hani protested the accusations and asserted his innocence, but no one believed him, not even his fiance. He was detained in a local prison during investigations of the reported theft. No evidence was found against him, so the police soon released him. It was early evening in spring, when Hani walked out of jail free, but though he had been behind bars, he felt free when he was imprisoned. Slowly, he trudged home in the still of the night where the only sound he could hear was the whoop of an owl and some crickets squeaking in wee voices. He could only think of his friend's double betrayal and his fiance's breaking off their engagement. Once home, he lit an oil lamp and sat alone into the small hours of the night thinking hard about all that had happened.

For days he refused to step outside his door and sweated while sleeping, waking up in the middle of the night screaming, "No, I didn't steal anything. I'm innocent!"

He suddenly jumped up when he saw the stern countenance of his friend Elyas in his nightmare and then paced back and forth in his cottage asking himself, "why me? Why me? I trusted Elyas. He was my idol!"

He decided the only face saving thing he could do would be to move to another village. He gathered his equipment, which wasn't much for a quilt maker, paid his rent and left without telling a soul one word of good-bye. To further his confusion about friendship, he was told that Elyas planned to marry his former fiance.

After he settled in a different village, he shunned his faith and fellow man, and kept much to himself except when someone wanted him to make a new quilt or refurbish an old one. At times, he felt like visiting his brother living in Amman, but at other moments shunting out the world seemed better. He continued his trade for several years having as little contact with others as possible. Since there was no one to spend his money on and he cared little for the extravagances of life, he saved his earnings and exchanged them for gold. At last, his greatest pleasure became his treasure and every night after he finished working, he would take out his gold and spend hours nearly worshipping it. Then he returned it to his leather bag and hid it on his closet shelf. One day, when he went to the village to buy some

more wool for his quilts, a scavenger raided his home, turning it upside down until at last he found and confiscated the leather bag and its contents. He stuffed the gold pieces in his pockets, threw the bag on the floor, and rushed out of Hani's house and the village forever.

When Hani returned home, he discovered his empty leather bag, trampled on the floor, covered with dirt. With disbelief, he slowly picked it up, turned it upside down and shook it even though he knew it empty. He slumped down on his bed, sunk his head in his hands and cried, "this is the second time I have been betrayed by other human beings and now I have lost the only thing that was dear to me!"

For two weeks, he stopped making quilts and after alerting his neighbours and the village, of the theft, he secluded himself in his home, making it a veritable prison. Yet, the reaction of the people about him stunned him. They seemed concerned, yet their sympathy hardly touched his hardened heart. Then one day, at the beginning of summer, a man from Amman knocked on his door. In his arms he carried a small child with golden curly hair. Hani opened the door and stared at the child with a dirty face and large brown eyes, wide and wondering, looking back at him. The man said:

"I'm sorry to bother you, sir, but I'm a friend of your brother's. He told me that if anything ever happened to him to deliver his only child to you. A week ago, your brother and his wife were killed in a car accident. The baby survived and you are the next of kin and the only one who can take care of the child. I've been searching for you for days."

Hani didn't know what to be more shocked about, his brother's death or the sudden responsibility of this young life thrust in his arms. The bundle cuddled next to him. He felt another heart beating beside his own in a warm body. All he could say to the stranger who brought the baby was, "what is its name?"

"His name is Yahya. Good day sir and forgive me for having to inform you of your brother's death in this manner."

Hani looked down at the small form and exclaimed, "I've found some living gold to replace the gold I lost!"

It was little Yahya who taught Hani to rediscover the world again and to have faith once more in his fellow man. He raised the boy to grow into a dedicated adult and together they prayed and believed in God, for Hani, as a good uncle, could not raise the boy as an atheist. And the circle of love, once non-existent, grew into a realm of wonder. Hani gained friends who praised him for dedicating his life to the orphan child. The child grew into a man, got married and now lives with his wife and their children in his Uncle Hani's house. The day Hani's gold was stolen from him became the turning point in his life, for he gained unthought of riches in the golden haired tot who found his heart and gave him back his trust in human nature.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 7

8:30 *Bony*

A story of police corruption in Australia, and how one policeman gathers all the missing links in a series of sudden disappearances and murders.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Da Beat's On*

Weekly pop show with Muhammad Al Jazirah, where he brings you the latest chart bitters in London.

9:00 *One To One*

This week, Dr. Ziad Rifa'i talks to Jordanian actor Nabeel Sawalha about the role of theatre in Jordan, with particular interest about his partner, Hisham Yanis, comedy Ahlan Hisham and Nabeel.

9:30 *The Campbells*

Dreams Stay With You

Neil goes back to Christime... but finds she has got engaged. Despite her father's objections, Christine decides to marry Neil.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Feature Film — Journey To The Centre Of The Earth*

Nine scientists take a trip into the deep, dangerous and volcanic earth.

9:00 *Scene Of The Crime*

Wild About Harry

Harry is an old judge who makes the mistake of marrying a much younger woman, who, in an effort to kill him, kills many people who unwittingly get in her way.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Black Powder*

A local programme with English subtitles.

11:10 *Top Cops*

True stories of how three cops managed to control a random killer in a supermarket, capture a kidnapper of five little girls and guarantee the release of a kidnapped businessman.

12:00 *News In English*

12:20 *Cinema, Cinema*

9:10 *Moon Over Miami*

A Missing Person

Saturday, April 9

7:45 *Charlie Chaplin*

A programme on Charlie Chaplin's old silent movies, including: *Act On The Balloon*, *Floor*, *Between Shadows*, *The Tramp*, *Work and The Pawn Shop*.

8:30 *Fresh Prince Of Bel Air*

Bang The Drum Ashley

William pushes everybody around to learn to play various musical instruments... but to no avail.

9:00 *Out Of The Past*

Collapse

Reasons behind the decline and demise of great old civilisations might be the clues we need to help save our own civilisation.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Black Powder*

A local programme with English subtitles.

11:10 *Top Cops*

True stories of how three cops managed to control a random killer in a supermarket, capture a kidnapper of five little girls and guarantee the release of a kidnapped businessman.

12:00 *News In English*

12:20 *Cinema, Cinema*

9:10 *Moon Over Miami*

A Missing Person

to investigate.

10:00 *News In English*

10:20 *Island Son*

The Christmas Story

On Christmas Eve, Dr. Daniel comes face to face with plague... and a mother whose sudden miscarriage changes her whole life.

11:10 *The Upper Hand*

## Shakespeare returns to Jordan

By Jennifer Hamarneh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two different British teams have arrived in Amman to bring William Shakespeare "to life" for students and their teachers in Jordan. The two programmes, which coincidentally coincide, are being arranged in cooperation with the British Council in Amman, said council Assistant Director Ruth Hill.

Ms. Hill explained that the drama department of the council had been receiving increasing requests for Shakespeare productions in Jordan and the Arab region.

"So we set about to find a suitable company and a suitable production," she said. The council selected The New Shakespeare Company (NSC) and their "fun for the whole family" production of "The Taming Of The Shrew."

The coincidence is that just about the time the council's office here was preparing for the NSC production, the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) World Service asked for the council's cooperation in arranging Shakespeare workshops at schools and universities in Jordan to coincide with its radio broadcasts of its "Shakespeare Today" series marking the 430th anniversary of the illustrious playwright's birth.

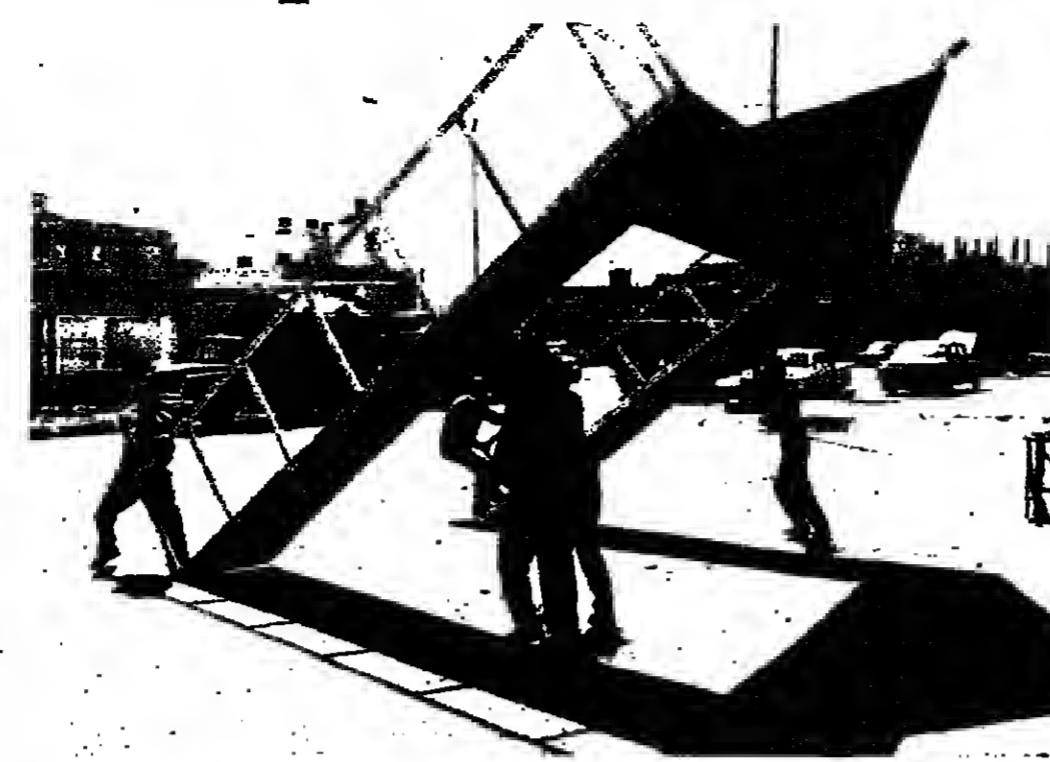
So, said Ms. Hill, "we said, why not?"

Both the NSC and the BBC programmes include workshops for teachers and students of Shakespeare's works, which aim at "illuminating the plot and major themes of a play while illustrating the various processes often used in rehearsal, highlighting certain aspects of the play which would open up discussion material with the students."

The workshop for students, designed by the NSC, usually includes four presenters, headed each time by NSC Artistic and Managing Director Ian Talbot, with three NSC actors.

The structure of the workshop begins with a general 20-minute introduction of the role of an actor and the play. The workshop audience at this point comprises about 100 students.

Next, the students are divided into four groups, and each presenter concentrates on a group of 25 students. Practical warm-up exercises are used, and a scene from the play is re-enacted through improvisation and study of text.



George Abdul Ahad, his carpentry team and Taming Of The Shrew Production Manager (photo by Rana Husseini)

of The Shrew as a "spectacle."

"Even if one does not understand all the English, the action, the colour, the music, the costumes make for a lively and entertaining experience," said Mr. Godfrey, the son of actors himself.

For the young production manager, who is on his first visit to the region, preparing for the Amman production has been a challenge. He explained that the company, which had shipped the stage set from London, ran into difficulties in transporting it from Egypt to Jordan. Therefore, he said, it was decided to construct a new set here in Amman.

Again he found a local firm; this one specialised in sign and banner painting. He found the colours he needed and said it was just a matter of training the painters in the style required.

Mr. Godfrey set out to find a carpenter for the job and discovered George Abdul Ahad, proprietor of a carpentry shop in Marka.

All the sets of NSC's productions are free-standing, said Mr. Godfrey. The NSC has been performing for 30 years at The Open Air Theatre of London's Regent's Park, he said, and thus the use of free-standing sets.

Mr. Godfrey said that as the frame of the set began to take shape, Mr. Abdul Ahad's business neighbours became increasingly curious. It wasn't until the frame was tested to see if it would stand without falling that his onlookers seemed to accept that this strange looking, approximately four metre high contraption was meant for a stage.

On the wobbly sidewalk on the corner of a small commercial area of Marka, up went the frame and up it stood. Mission accomplished, Mr. Godfrey set off to have the frame painted.

Again he found a local firm; this one specialised in sign and banner painting. He found the colours he needed and said it was just a matter of training the painters in the style required.

William Shakespeare's  
The Taming Of The Shrew

Presented by  
The New Shakespeare Company

Director of Production  
Production Manager

Ian Talbot  
Richard Godfrey

Actors:

George Johnson as Petruchio  
Cathryn Harrison as Katherine  
Cameron Blakely as Tranio  
Simon Harrison as Hortensio  
Jonathan Markwood as Lucentio  
Ian Talbot (director) as Grumio  
Catherine Terry as Bianca

At Al Hassan Ibn Talal Auditorium  
University of Jordan

Monday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12 at 5:00 p.m.

"It's important that the painting be done right, because so much of the character of the set comes from the painting," said Mr. Godfrey.

The

Taming Of The Shrew, a Shakespearean comedy is described by the Open Air Theatre 1993 season playbill as follows.

"Christopher Sly, a tinker lying drunk by a tavern,

is found by a Lord, who for a joke cause him to be put

to bed and treated, on waking, as a nobleman newly cured of madness. A company of actors arrive and perform a play for the Lord and Sly.

In this play two young men arrive in Padua. Lucentio, son of a merchant from Pisa, has come to study; Petruchio, a country gentleman, has come to find a wealthy wife. Baptista, a rich merchant of Padua, has

two attractive daughters, Bianca and Katherine.

Bianca seems sweet-

tempered, obedient and has

many suitors; Katherine is

quick-tempered, disobedient and her father and all

Paduans think her nothing but a shrew. Consequently

nobody is bold enough to

marry her. Lucentio falls in

love with Bianca, but Baptista makes a condition that

Bianca may not marry before Katherine. Petruchio

marries Katherine and is

determined to tame her. An

extraordinary battle of the

sexes ensures which eventually

Petruchio seems to

win by his wit, eloquence, masculinity and outrageous behaviour. Lucentio is not

free to marry Bianca, and

all are smirched by the remarkable change in Katherine."

The culmination of the weeks of activity by the NSC in Jordan on the subject of William Shakespeare — his life and work — will be its performances of The Taming Of The Shrew on April 11 and 12.

Held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, there will be two public performances of the comedy at the University of Jordan.

A special private performance on April 10 is being held for students of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Schools in Jordan.

## 'Shakespeare Today'

As part of the BBC's "Shakespeare Today" series, a compact schedule of 13 workshops were scheduled from April 2 to April 6 introducing two senior BBC figures and the head of drama from Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-on-Avon. According to the BBC, school children, university students and teachers were "encouraged to take part in the sessions which besides looking at specific plays such as Romeo And Juliet and Macbeth, showed how productions were staged in Shakespeare's time.

"We aim to prove that Shakespeare is fun and his plays are every bit as relevant today as they were written 400 years ago," said Ann Theroux, the BBC's Features and Arts Editor and one of the three-person team running the workshops. "If we can open a door to Shakespeare's world for young people in Jordan today, we will have succeeded," added Ms. Theroux who taught Shakespeare's plays in East Africa and Singapore.

The BBC workshop team arrived last Saturday morning and were sped off to conduct their first session at Amman National School where an excited gathering of 150 eighth to eleventh graders and their teachers were waiting.

At the workshop the students were introduced to the BBC World Service, its news programmes and features by Ms. Theroux.

Next, Sue Cokyll, who launched a major English literature series for the World Service entitled "Looking at Literature," gave a brief presentation on some of the broadcast corporation's English language teaching programmes. She explained and played a taped excerpt of one of the higher level broadcast of English literature narrated from the Charles Dickens classic The Pickwick Papers.

The students then heard from Pat Friday, head of English and theatre studies at Stratford Upon Avon Grammar School For Girls. Ms. Friday spoke of what it

Pat Friday of the Stratford-Upon-Avon Grammar School For Girls lectures students of the Amman National School on the theatre during the t i m e o f Shakespeare (photo by Rana Husseini)



British Council where the public was invited to come and learn more about Shakespeare and the BBC World Service.

The World Service's Shakespeare Today season will feature poetry, documentaries, music, comedies and quizzes in addition to productions of the author's plays, according to Linda Harriett, press officer for BBC World Service.

She said the series includes more than 50 programmes, including descriptions of how Shakespeare's plays are performed around the world and how after 400 years they still inspire film and stage musicals, writers, actors and audiences to this day.

The series will be aired during April, May and June.

## Seeing Hugh Grant in triplicate

By Matt Wolf  
The Associated Press

director John Duigan's odd tale of eroticism unleashed in rural Australia. Tara Fitzgerald and Sam Neill costar.

In Bitter Moon, he's the seafaring spouse absorbed by, and into, Peter Coyote's tales of sexual sadomasochism. Roman Polanski's film, shot 2½ years ago and also starring Emmanuelle Seigner and Kristin Scott-Thomas, is just now getting an American release.

Lastly, and pre-eminently, comes Four Weddings And A Funeral. Mike Newell's romantic comedy casts Grant as what should be his breakthrough performance: As the sweetly bumbling bachelor Charles who's none too likely to make it to the church on time.

"It's pure coincidence," he said of the convergence of openings. "But there can be quite long periods as well when there's nothing, so I know how that works."

An attentive flurry followed his screen debut as the bisexual Clive, opposite James Wilby, in the 1987 Maurice, adapted from the E.M. Forster novel. (It was the kind of posh Oxbridge role he had been bad played while still an undergraduate, in a 1982 student film, Privileged, which had a limited

north of England TV producer) and the wry self-mockery that make him so engaging to meet.

In Sirens, he said, he tried to be "groovy" as well as funny so that the clash between free-spiritedness and conventional morality in 1930s Australia not seem a cliché.

"I was worried the clash was a little 1960s, a little obvious," Grant said of the film, in which he plays English vicar Anthony Campion, who travels to New South Wales to investigate the erotic content of the art of real-life painter Norman Lindsay, who died in 1969. "I felt there had to be more going on, hence making my character think he was quite avant-garde and groovy.... I was quite happy to champion Anthony's cause against such a tired old Bohemianism."

Grant credits director Polanski and Bitter Moon for getting him back on track.

"That film did such a lot of good for me in England," he said. "Although the critics were literally divided — some saw it as a joke bad, some saw it as a joke brilliant — people tended to like me and thought I was quite funny."

The fact is Grant truly is funny. His initially stiff-backed and elegant screen persona gave no hint of the apt mimicry (he's particularly good on "frightening American Agents" and

The film teams Grant with Privileged director, Michael Hoffman.

Then there's An Englishman Who Went Up A Hill And Came Down A Mountain, about two mapmakers in Wales in 1910. The director is Christopher Monger, a Welshman based in Los Angeles.

Further ahead, he is to play Edward Ferrers in Emma Thompson's screenplay of Sense And Sensibility, the 1811 Jane Austen novel. Grant appeared with Thompson as the journalist who learns the facts of life from Anthony Hopkins' burler in The Remains Of The Day.

What Grant won't do are the mainstream projects his Hollywood agents send him.

"Do they really think I want to be in the new Schwarzenegger film?" he asked. "I've seen it go wrong so often: You're shoved into the nearest Hollywood film, and you're awful in it and it's awful and that's the end of it."

"When I said I'm sorry, I don't like any of the 12 scripts you've sent me, I thought (the agents) would respect me for it."

"I've now heard on the grapevine they rather hate me."

## After the Oscars, the race for the box office

By Michael Miller  
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Two Oscar-winning films such as Schindler's List and The Piano wasted no time in launching full-scale campaigns to cash in on their awards.

The names of the winners had hardly rolled off the lips of the trophy presenters at the 66th Academy Awards ceremony when advertising departments at the victorious studios and newspapers went into high gear.

A full-page advertisement in the Los Angeles Times trumpeted 7 Winner, Academy Awards, for Schindler's List, and went on to tabulate "Spielberg's list."

Best Picture and Best Director for Steven Spielberg, plus five technical awards.

The Piano, with three awards Best Actress for Holly Hunter, Best Supporting Actress for 11-year-old Anna Paquin, and Best Original Screenplay for Director Jane Campion, also sought to get in on the act, as did Philadelphia, with Best Actor for Tom Hanks and Best Original Screenplay for Bruce Springsteen.

Analysts differ on just how much of a financial boost an Oscar or Oscars give to a film. Some say it can add millions of dollars in revenues at the box office while others are not so sure.

But most agree that when Oscar winners are released on videocassettes, the profits soar.

This year, Variety, a film industry trade paper, forecast that Schindler's List would reap the most benefits in terms of box office revenues, while Chris Dixon, an analyst with PaineWebber Inc. said The Piano would probably see most benefits.

Both are already financial winners with or without their Oscars. Schindler's List, made for about \$30 million, has already grossed \$60 million in U.S. sales, while The Piano, made for a mere \$8 million, has taken in \$35 million.

Universal, which released Schindler's List, Spielberg's epic film based on the story of wartime German industrialist Oskar Schindler, said with its Oscars the film is capable of generating \$100 million in domestic sales.

The Piano, the poignant tale of a mute Scottish

woman in an arranged marriage a world away in 19th century New Zealand, will also see bigger audiences.

"Major awards, I suspect, are going to help increase the box office," said Julie Polkes, a spokeswoman for Miramax, the Walt Disney subsidiary that distributed the film.

Meanwhile, for winners and non-winners alike — there are no losers according to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — Los Angeles was transformed into one huge party once the show was over.

The Governors Ball, held in a huge tent outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, saw 1,500 of filmdom's elite sipping champagne, munching on caviar and dining on smoked salmon.

The elite could also be found partying in Morton's, a popular celebrity hangout in Hollywood, as well as Chasen's in Beverly Hills and a half dozen other top eateries.

Wherever Spielberg went, he was greeted with cheering and prolonged clapping. A basically shy man when not on a movie set, Spielberg acknowledged the accolades with a beaming grin.

## Gene therapy treatment reported successful

By Randall Mikkelsen  
Reuter

PHILADELPHIA — A Canadian woman with a potentially fatal inherited liver disorder is the first reported patient to be successfully treated for an illness using gene therapy, researchers said.

The experimental treatment, described in the current issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*, reduced high cholesterol levels in a 30-year-old resident of Quebec City whose liver was incapable of removing the substance.

"We have demonstrated the long-term safety and efficacy of gene therapy in this patient," said Dr. James Wilson, head of the Institute for Human Gene Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre.

"Gene therapy is really in its infancy. We, as others, believe there is tremendous promise for this new form of therapy," Dr. Wilson told a news conference.

In gene therapy of the type reported Thursday, defective genes in cells are replaced with properly

working genes.

Doctors said it was unclear what impact the treatment would have on the woman's longevity, but the patient, speaking through an interpreter, exuded confidence.

"I have a lot of confidence and faith in the therapy that I've had. And I'm certainly going to live to 90 years of age and more, probably," she told reporters, speaking on condition that she not be identified.

The woman suffers from a disease called familial hypercholesterolemia, in which a defective gene ren-

ders the liver incapable of removing harmful "LDL" cholesterol from the blood. Excess levels of the cholesterol accumulate in the blood and cause severe heart problems.

Incidents of the disease are unusually high in Quebec, where its roots are traced to early 18th century French immigrants, said the woman's Canadian doctor, Dr. Paul Lupien.

Dr. Wilson's patient had a heart attack at age 16 and a coronary bypass at age 26.

Two of her brothers had the disease and died of heart attacks in their 20s.

The woman was treated

at University of Michigan Medical Centre, where Dr. Wilson and much of his team worked before moving to the University of Penn-

sylvania.

Cholesterol level remains far above normal, her levels of beneficial cholesterol also rose, cutting her "cardiac risk ratio" nearly in half, Dr. Wilson said.

For all practical purposes, we have functionally corrected about five percent of the patient's total liver cells," Dr. Wilson said. He said the therapy's ability to correct liver function is limited by the amount of liver cells doctors can remove to infuse with the corrected genes.

She is also being aided by cholesterol reducing drugs, which had not been effective prior to the therapy, he said.

The woman will need

rest of her life to ensure the permanently inserted genes continue to work. The woman told reporters she has felt healthier since the treatment and does not worry very much about her liver.

Dr. Wilson's team is also using gene therapy to treat four other patients with the same illness. So far the treatment is going well, he said. Other gene therapy trials are underway in the United States, but this is the first instance where a successful treatment was reported in a scientific journal.

## Protein in blood may signal cancers

By Malcolm Ritter  
The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — A recently discovered protein shows up chiefly in the blood of some cancer patients and may prove to be a useful indicator of breast and prostate cancer, a researcher said.

Blood tests for the protein may one day help in early detection and in tracking the results of therapy, said Margaret Hanausek of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre.

She presented early data

on the protein at a seminar sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

"It appears to be the most promising (tumour marker) I've seen in a long, long time," said Dr. Harmon Eyre, the society's deputy executive vice president for medical affairs and research.

But Dr. Michael Torosian, a surgical oncologist at the University of Pennsylvania, said Dr. Hanausek's data suggest the test would not be useful for early detection of breast tumours.

Dr. Hanausek said the protein can be found by a simple blood test. She said

the function of the protein, called P65, is not known.

She did not offer detailed findings involving prostate cancer, saying the company she did that research with is keeping results confidential. But she said P65 levels were much higher in 311 prostate cancer patients than in 353 men with benign enlargement of the prostate.

A P65 test might be used along with a standard test for another substance, called prostate-specific antigen, to detect prostate cancer, she said.

In a study focusing on

breast cancer, only 12 of 112 women without cancer scored above the study's statistical cutoff for normal levels, she said. In contrast, 119 of 132 blood samples from patients in various stages of breast cancer scored above the cutoff, she said. Twelve of 68 women with benign breast disease scored above the cutoff.

But the study found that women in the very earliest stages of cancer had protein levels that were not obviously above the cutoff. In a telephone interview, Dr. Torosian cited that result in explaining his skepticism about early detection.

The work was done with human melanoma cells that normally spread aggressively

when transplanted into mice. The cells lack a piece of Chromosome 6. When researchers supplied them with an entire Chromosome 6, the cancers did not spread in the mice.

But Dr. Hanausek said that the cutoff is still appreciably above the normal average for the general population and that women scoring close to it should be checked further for cancer.

In a separate presentation, Danny Welch of the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in Hershey presented evidence that an unidentified gene on Chromosome 6 can prevent spreading of the skin cancer melanoma.

Eyre said identifying the gene could give leads for controlling the spread of melanoma.

## Dieting increases rates of heart disease, diabetes

By Paul Raeburn  
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Florida — Men who say they are always dieting had dramatically higher rates of heart disease and diabetes than men who say they never diet, a new study showed.

"It's a paradox," Dr.

The results appear to raise questions about research that has established obesity as a risk for heart disease, said the study's author, Steven N. Blair, an epidemiologist at the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas.

He discussed his findings at the American Heart Association's annual epidemiology meeting.

The study also found that

Blair said. Researchers know that gaining weight raises the risks of disease. But it's not clear whether losing weight lowers the risks again, he said.

He discussed his findings at the American Heart Association's annual epidemiology meeting.

men who keep their weight steady, even if they are overweight, have less risk of disease than men whose weight fluctuates by as little as 10 pounds.

Earlier studies have also suggested that losing and regaining weight, or "yo-yo dieting," is associated with higher health risks than keeping weight steady.

"In general, weight cycling has been hard to figure out," said Dr. Stephen P. Fortmann, a professor of medicine at Stanford University as one of the organisers of the Heart Association meeting. "It is another reason not to diet."

The best way to control weight is through exercise, not dieting, Dr. Fortmann said. Dr. Blair suggested a low-fat diet with a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables. He advised people to avoid gaining weight in the first place.

The study was based on a survey of 12,025 Harvard University graduates with an average age of 67. The question Dr. Blair asked them was: "How often are you dieting (eating less than you would like)?"

"Those who said 'always' had a heart disease rate of

23.1 per cent, more than double the 10.6 rate of those who answered 'never.'

The men who always dieted had a 38.3 per cent rate of hypertension and 14.6 per cent rate of diabetes, compared with a 23.4 per cent rate of hypertension and 3 per cent rate of diabetes for those who said they never dieted.

Among those men who dieted part of the time, the study found that the more they dieted, the higher their rates of disease. Men who dieted "often" had higher disease rates than those who dieted "sometimes." That group, in turn, had higher rates than those who dieted "rarely."

Even among the leanest members of the group, those who dieted more had higher rates of disease than those who dieted less, he said.

Dr. Blair also asked them to indicate their body shape at various ages, giving him an indication of their weight variation. Those whose weight varied had higher risks than those whose weight was steady, he found.

But studies by herself and colleagues showed that these babies responded to the tac-tic therapy, which consists of gently stroking the infant from head to toe.

Tests showed the infants who were touched had significantly higher mental development scores and scored better on tests of imitation, comprehension, vocalisation and socialisation.

Other tests found babies lay still while they were being touched but then moved more on their own afterwards. None of the tests showed any harm came from the treatment.

## ANSWERS

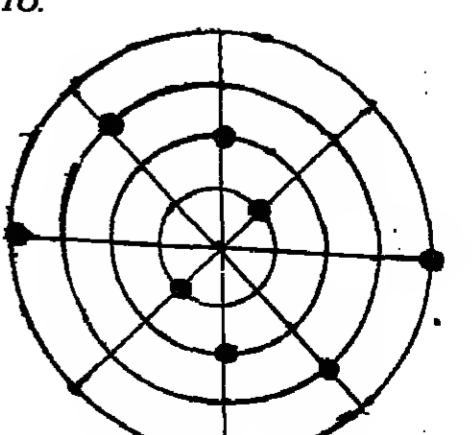
### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A Basque is an inhabitant of the region of the western Pyrenees on the Bay of Biscay; a basque is a short, skirt-like addition to a woman's bodice.
2. The saxophone is called after Antoine Joseph Sax, the inventor.
3. Pluto was the god of the lower world, Hades, and has nothing to do with plutocracy, which is derived from the Greek plutous, wealth, and means government by rich. "Effete plutocracy" is Mussolini's name for England and America.
4. If you leave the lid off the saucepan the soup will get more salty, since some of the water boils away but all the salt remains. If the lid is on, the steam condenses on it and runs back as water, so that the saltiness remains unchanged.
5. Stavisky was a financial adventurer, to use no harsher terms, who was closely connected with the "Stavisky scandal." Stravinsky was a famous Russian composer, probably best known for his ballet, *The Firebird*.

★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

1. Seconds in a week: 604,800 to 528,000.
2. 94 — 263
3. DOTTO.



WASHINGTON (AP) — Cigarettes advertised as low in nicotine are actually higher than regular cigarettes, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has charged.

The claim came during an often heated House subcommittee bearing into the tobacco industry.

FDA Commissioner

David Kessler said an investigation revealed that companies have the technology

to increase nicotine levels in cigarettes, increasing people's addiction.

The companies deny using the technology and Philip Morris Co. sued ABC for \$10 billion for libel this week after the U.S. network carried a programme

claiming tobacco companies did spike cigarettes with extra nicotine.

The FDA also claimed

the companies deny using the technology and Philip Morris Co. sued ABC for \$10 billion for libel this week after the U.S. network carried a programme

claiming tobacco companies did spike cigarettes with extra nicotine.

"I do not believe that cigarettes cause cancer and are not safe," said Mr. Kessler.

The FDA is considering classifying nicotine as a drug, which would allow it to regulate and possibly ban nearly all tobacco products.

Tohacco Institute spokesman Charles Whitley told the subcommittee that the industry did not agree that nicotine was harmful.

"I do not believe that cigarettes cause cancer and are not safe," said Mr. Whitley.



## Bomber kills 7 in Afula

(Continued from page 1)  
nitories were barred from entering Israel for at least eight days, said police commissioner Rafi Peled.

In Cairo, PLO negotiators condemned the attack and said it underscored the urgency to move talks ahead.

"The continuing acts of violence are extremely regrettable: We do not support it. We are exerting all our efforts to rid the region of acts of violence," said Maj. General Nasr Yousef, who will head the Palestinian police force in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

There had been widespread concern in Israel about such an attack since Hamas vowed revenge for the Hebron massacre.

Mohammad Nazzal, a Hamas spokesman in Jordan, said Hamas launched the attack after the 40th day of mourning for victims of the Hebron mosque massacre.

"We pledge that we will escalate our attacks on Israeli targets," he said.

The anonymous caller in Jerusalem said Hamas' military wing, the Izzeddin Al Qassam

Brigades, carried out the attack. He warned Mr. Rabin of more suicide bombings.

"(We) claim responsibility for the suicide operation in the town of Afula which killed eight people. We tell Rabin that suicide operations in the coming period will increase."

In mosque loudspeakers in Gaza City also, Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack saying it was aimed at halting the Israeli-PLO plan for Palestinian autonomy.

"We claim responsibility for the heroic suicide operation in Afula. We proved to the world that the arms of (Hamas) are capable of stopping all the conspiracies that are plotting against our people both here and abroad," one broadcast said.

Palestinians also shot and wounded four Israeli soldiers in an ambush on the outskirts of Shati refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Palestinian sources said.

The army said it was checking the report. The sources said the soldiers were riding in a command car when attacked. The guerrillas fled.

## Arafat describes visit as positive

(Continued from page 1)  
ments in the Israeli-PLO negotiations.

Also expected to be discussed between the King and Mr. Arafat was the status of Jerusalem following Jordanian criticism that the Arab group at the United Nations, including the PLO, had mishandled the language of the resolution and opened the door for the U.S. to set a precedent by abstaining on parts of the resolution referring to Jerusalem.

Observers expected the King to have reaffirmed Jordan's stand that Jerusalem is not simply a Palestinian concern but an issue that concerns the entire Muslim World and as such there had to be more Jordanian-Palestinian coordination over the issue.

Mr. Arafat described his visit to Jordan as "very constructive and positive" and said it offered "a good opportunity for discussions...particularly that the meeting centred on Jerusalem...and ways to enhance Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation" and "coordination."

The Jordan News Agency.

## Fishing with a difference in Lebanon

By Haitham Haddadin  
Reuter

TYRE — "I don't have to think about it, I choose the dynamite," said fisherman Monsé Assaf with a smile.

"That net is just for decoration, I haven't used it in a month."

Fishing is different in south Lebanon.

The hazardous practice of dynamite fishing and the constant threat of being shot at by Israeli gunboats patrolling to stop seaborne commando raids make it a matter of life or death.

"We pay with blood for our daily bread," said Hussein Al Dayekh, 37, hiding what remains of his right arm. His hand was blown to pieces when the dynamite stick he was aiming at passing fish exploded prematurely.

Mr. Dayekh was one of the luckier ones. The fishermen of this ancient seaport tell the story of 14-year-old Badi, who died when the explosives he accidentally dropped exploded.

Several fishermen have also been wounded by Israeli gunfire in the area, where the Israeli navy killed two Palestinian guerrillas on jet skis last October as they attempted a raid on northern Israel.

Security sources say the guerrillas operate from coastal refugee camps flanking Tyre.

The 500 fishermen of Tyre also risk seizure and detention by Israeli boats. More than a dozen have been grabbed since February for interrogation. They are usually released within 24 hours.

"They (Israelis) ask if you know any guerrillas. They are afraid of raids. That's why they harass us," said Khalil Dramses, 28, who was held

before he was released.

The fishermen have arrested to fish off Israel's self-declared occupation zone in south Lebanon since constant dynamiting has severely depleted stocks nearer Tyre.

They know the dangers of dynamite fishing, which mushroomed during the chaos of Lebanon's 1973-90 civil war, but do it to earn quick money.

"Dynamite gives better

yield. Instead of working all night to make 10,000 (Lebanese) pounds, you make 100,000 worth of fish in three minutes," Kamel Khairallah said as he cleaned his small wooden boat.

The fishermen make the powerful explosives locally known as "troobine", a distortion of "torpille", the French word for torpedo, by cooking ammonium nitrate and sawdust on a coal fire and adding a detonator.

Serious fishermen detonate underwater bags filled with up to 50 kg of the home-made concoction mixed with gravel to add enough weight to make them sink.

**Dynamite gives better yield. Instead of working all night to make 10,000 (Lebanese) pounds, you make 100,000 worth of fish in three minutes,** Kamel Khairallah, a fisherman.

"You throw the troobine over the side and quickly lie on your back to absorb the shock of the blast. It can harm your stomach," said Mr. Assaf, "or you can throw it on the beach."

The fishermen, who never use troobines at night for fear of being spotted by local authorities or the Israelis, say the lack of state authority is behind the widespread use of dynamite.

A government ban on dynamiting has done little to curb it, although fishermen admit it is depleting stocks. The penalty of up to six months' imprisonment is rarely imposed.

The fishermen have arrested to fish off Israel's self-declared occupation zone in south Lebanon since constant dynamiting has severely depleted stocks nearer Tyre.

They know the dangers of dynamite fishing, which mushroomed during the chaos of Lebanon's 1973-90 civil war, but do it to earn quick money.

"Dynamite gives better

By Feizal Samath  
Reuter

COLOMBO — Nearly a year after becoming a makeshift replacement as Sri Lankan president, mild-mannered Dingiri Banda Wijetunga is proving people wrong about his intentions.

Some Sri Lankans expected him to be non-controversial, others believed he would remain in the background, like before, and do little talking. Both theories were wrong.

The silver-haired Wijetunga has emerged as a tough-talking, no-nonsense president, steeping himself in controversy and not giving an inch to his rivals.

"People who thought he would be a sleeping president have now woken up to the fact that he can't be taken lightly and is in fact tougher than his predecessors," a veteran journalist said.

The 72-year-old Wijetunga has angered Tamils with uncompromising views on the island's ethnic conflict, surprised many by bringing back former powerful ruling party politicians and a top opposition defector and shocked some by deciding to remain in power.

When Mr. Wijetunga, then prime minister, replaced Ranasinghe Premadasa, who was killed in a bomb attack last May, political analysts said he was a mere stop-gap president.

But the analysts are no longer surprised by the change.

"It is a good illustration of what happens to a village rustic when he strays into an upper-class environment. He loses all sense of direction and balance," said Hector Abhayawardene, a noted political commentator.

"He then becomes the victim of every conflicting pressure," the analyst said.

But the president, who grew up in a village in the central Kandy hills and worked as a cooperative inspector before moving into politics, has still charmed many.

"He is truly the leader we have been looking for, for a long time," said Gamani Jayasuriya, a former minister leading a campaign for the rights of the majority Sinhalese community.

Businessmen praise him for deftly handling a potentially serious crisis after Mr. Premadasa was killed.

"It's a state of chaos now. There are no patrols to stop troobines so we are blasting. When the state prevents troobine use, we go back to using nets," said Mr. Assaf.

"It's an economist said.

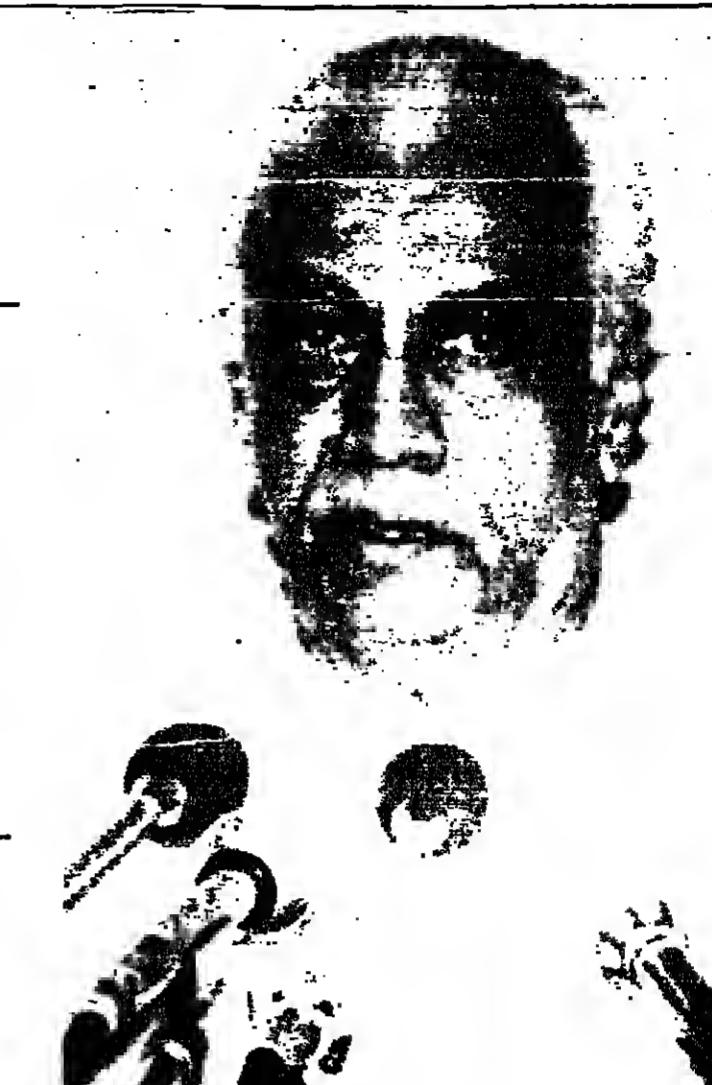
Unlike his predecessors, Mr. Wijetunga believes he can win the next presidential poll purely on the Sinhalese vote and that could be his undoing, a political-science professor said.

That probably led to most of the minorities voting against the ruling party in March 1 local council polls in the east, which has a mixed population of Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims.

"The humiliating defeat of the UNP in (minority-dominated) areas... is a cogent message from the Tamil-speaking people that they are not under any circumstances prepared to live as creeps which have to cling and grow round a tree for their survival," said Tamil politician Dharmaningam Sitharthan.

Mr. Wijetunga has invited Tamil rebels, fighting since 1983 for a Tamil homeland, for talks. But at the same time he says there is nothing to talk about because minority issues have been resolved.

Neelan Tiruchelvam, director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, says the president's views are



## Tough talks the president

consistent with his instinctive understanding of the ethnic problem, a rural view projected by Sinhalese hardliners.

This view says there is no ethnic problem. The solution to the rebellion is a military one and the Sinhalese have been fairly generous to the minorities, Mr. Tiruchelvam said.

The biggest surprise to many is his determination to stay in power, despite once saying he was prepared to shed most of the wide-ranging powers enjoyed by the president.

Mr. Wijetunga, seen as an impartial president at the beginning, is now wheeling and dealing like his predecessors.

He has brought back former powerful UNP politicians to boost his own image, weakened the opposition by splitting their ranks and infuriated the public by pardoning two UNP supporters, facing shooting charges, on the grounds the victim was not pressing charges.

## U.S. condemns attacks in northern Iraq, blames Baghdad

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States on Tuesday strongly condemned recent attacks against U.N. personnel and journalists in northern Iraq, and suggested the Iraqi government may be responsible.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said the attacks follow reports received by the United Nations that Iraq has offered a bounty for anyone who murders U.N. and other international relief

workers.

The most recent incident was the April 3 murder of Lissy Schmidt, 35, a German correspondent for the French news agency, Agence France-Presse. She and her Iraqi-Kurdish bodyguard were shot to death, apparently at point-blank range while travelling by road in northern Iraq, Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. McCurry said the incident was preceded by two separate attacks in March on

U.N. guard forces in which two Czech nationals and two Austrians were injured by gunfire in northern Iraq. In addition, two Swedish journalists were wounded last month in a car-bomb explosion in the north.

If reports of the monetary inducements and Iraqi involvement in the acts themselves are true, they would "constitute blatant violations of the terrorism provisions of the United Nations Security Council re-

solutions," Mr. McCurry said. He added that the bounty reportedly was raised to \$10,000 on March 1.

"The United States is working closely with the United Nations on security to prevent further attacks and to explore possible Iraqi government involvement in these incidents," Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. McCurry said the incidents may have been provoked by Iraq's anger over the refusal of the United Nations to lift

sanctions against Iraq. The recent events reflect "a frustrated and isolated Saddam Hussein who continues to face pressure from the international community in the form of the sanctions," Mr. McCurry said.

Three weeks ago, Iraq demanded that U.N. sanctions be lifted and warned of retaliatory action if they were not. On March 15, the Security Council continued the sanctions for another two months.

**APRIL 1994**

**Monday, 11**

**THE JON METZGER JAZZ QUARTET**

Philadelphia Hotel - Philadelphia Ballroom

JD 7

In cooperation with The American Center

Tickets are available from:  
-The American Center, 820101  
-Philadelphia Hotel, 607100  
-Freddy For Music, 692696  
-The National Music Conservatory, 687620  
-Roman Restaurant, Tel: 644227

**Wednesday, 13**

**EDINBURGH QUARTET**

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

JD 7

In cooperation with Shell Chemicals and Turin

Tickets are available from:  
-The Royal Cultural Centre, 689026  
-Babylon, 681322  
-Freddy For Music, 682696  
-The National Music Conservatory, 687620  
-Roman Restaurant, Tel: 644227

**Sunday, 17**

**MODERN STRING QUARTET**

Under the Patronage of His Highness Prince Raad Bin Zeid

**THE MODERN STRING QUARTET**

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

JD 7

In cooperation with Goethe Institut and Friendship Society for the Blind

Tickets are available from:  
-Philadelphia Hotel, 607100  
-Goethe Institut, 641993  
-Babylon, 681322  
-Freddy For Music, 682696  
-The National Music Conservatory, 687620  
-Roman Restaurant, Tel: 644227

**Tuesday & Wednesday, 26 & 27**

**THE MOZARTEUM QUARTET OF SALZBURG**

HOTEL INTER CONTINENTAL JORDAN THE GRAND BALLROOM

JD 25 (with dinner)

In cooperation with

**The Austrian Embassy**

Tickets are available from:  
-Hotel Inter Continental Jordan, 641361

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**Lufthansa**

**Goethe Institut**

**INTER-CONTINENTAL JORDAN**

**Philadelphia Hotel**

## Yemeni leaders 'committed to unity'

(Continued from page 1)  
compromising stance at Salalah.

They said the GPC was refusing to accept the fact that the mismatched merger between his north and Mr. Beidh's south Yemen in 1990 had failed to create a unitary state and that other, looser forms of federation should be considered.

The sources in the Aden-based YSP of former Marxists accused Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC), a party of loyalists who had served a succession of northern military presidents, of an un-

## IMF says U.S. may have to further raise interest rate

WASHINGTON (R) — The IMF has warned the United States that it will probably have to further raise short-term interest rates in the future to help hold inflation in check and keep economic growth on track, international monetary sources said.

"Further (rate) adjustments are likely to be needed to ensure a durable expansion," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

That advice also contained in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) World Economic Outlook to be considered Thursday, is unlikely to be welcomed with open arms by the Clinton administration, which is struggling to cope with a collapse in stock and bond prices brought on in part by higher short-term rates.

Although both markets staged a partial recovery Tuesday, stock and bond prices are still well below levels seen just two months ago, before the

independent Federal Reserve (Fed) nudged short-term rates higher for the first time in five years on Feb. 4.

The semi-annual IMF World Economic Outlook due to be considered by the fund's board Thursday will not be public until this month, although the IMF has no way of forcing the United States to follow its advice.

Its recommendations carry some weight because of the central role it plays in the international monetary system.

The outlook was compiled by IMF staff some three weeks ago and thus does not contain any discussion about either the most recent declines in the stock and bond markets or the Federal Reserve's second short-term interest rate increase on March 22.

But monetary sources said the fund seems very supportive of the actions by the Fed, essentially the U.S. central bank, in its attempt to ensure the durability of the upswing in

the United States by tightening policy to head off future inflation.

With the U.S. expansion already three years old and factories running closer to full capacity, the Fed can't afford to take chances by holding back from tightening policy when needed, they said.

That's the mistake some industrial countries have made in the past — holding rates down as their economies picked up in steam in hopes of stoking up growth, only to find they had fuelled inflation instead.

The Fed also needs to be cautious because it takes so long for changes in interest rates to affect the real economy and inflation — perhaps a year or more, the sources said.

Although the IMF does warn of the likelihood of further short-term rate increases in the United States, on the whole the fund is generally upbeat about the outlook for

the American economy, they said.

It has revised upwards its forecast for U.S. growth this year from the 2.6 per cent rate contained in its last outlook in September.

Monetary sources said the Clinton administration programme to slash the budget deficit has improved America's long-term economic outlook and has enhanced the durability of the expansion.

The IMF has also bumped up its 1994 growth forecast for the industrial world, from the 2.2 per cent rate forecast in September, and sees continued growth in 1995, as the Japanese and European economies recover, several sources said.

But the fund believes that Japan may need to take further action to pep up its sluggish economy and that European nations may have to cut interest rates further to help that recovery along.

## Russian industrial output slumps 27.1%

MOSCOW (R) — Russia announced yet another catastrophic slump in industrial output Wednesday, bellying rosy estimates by top government officials that economic stabilisation may be just around the corner.

The government's Information Bulletin said industrial output fell by a record 27.1 per

cent in February compared to the same month last year. Industrial output fell 16.2 per cent last year after a fall of 18 per cent in 1992.

The monthly output fall in the combined fuel and raw materials sector was 15.6 per cent compared to a 17.8 per cent slump in February 1993. Processing industries recorded

a massive 37.9 per cent drop, the worst slump yet compared to a 19.8 per cent fall a year ago.

But not everyone is convinced that an economic collapse is in the making in Russia.

Only last week, acting finance minister Sergei Dubinin

said the economy may be about to overcome the current crisis and the first signs of growth may appear before the end of 1994.

"We are approaching a new stage of economic development," Mr. Dubinin told a meeting with U.S. business men in Moscow.

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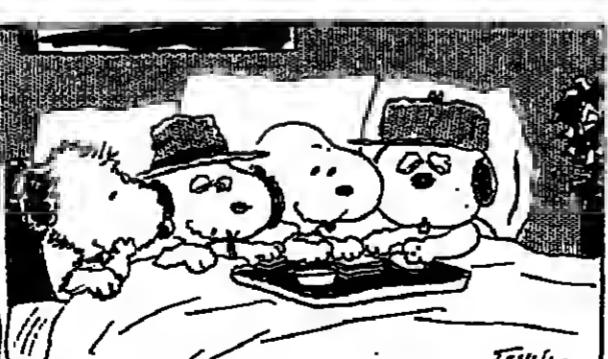
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## Peanuts



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## China warns of very serious unemployment

BEIJING (R) — China admitted to an extremely serious unemployment problem Wednesday, saying that moves away from the socialist welfare state had put unprecedented strains on the economy.

"The rapid change of the economic structure has increased the difficulties of employment work," said Communist Party newspaper People's Daily. "This year and next year, the employment situation will be extremely grim."

It referred to China's bold moves away from the socialist planned economy to a more capitalist-style market economy. The moves have exposed failings in many money-losing state enterprises, which are still the backbone job-providers for China's 1.2 billion people.

"China's employment situation is extremely difficult, and the country now is faced with unprecedented challenges in deploying all the jobless," said Li Boyong, minister of labour. The official Xinhua News

Agency, which quoted Mr. Li, said China would try to register its unemployed to get some control over the situation.

The People's Daily vowed the urban unemployment rate would be limited to three per cent to this year and next year, up from 2.6 per cent last year.

Economists said China's unemployment statistics are misleadingly low because they do not include the large mass of rural unemployed and underemployed, and mask much of urban joblessness behind euphemisms like "youths waiting for work."

The People's Daily said the huge army of roaming labourers, who criss-cross the country looking for work, now topped 20 million, most of them come from the huge pool of 130 million surplus rural labourers.

The problem of unemployment strikes to the heart of Communist Party leaders who worry that social unrest could shake their hold on power.

One top economist, who is also a parliamentary deputy, warned last month that rising

unemployment could be a bigger danger than rising inflation, which is also causing widespread anger as it tops 25 per cent in major cities.

"A rise in unemployment rather than inflation would pose a greater threat to China," Li Yining was quoted as saying by the semi-official China News Service.

Many workers fear that China's economic reforms will eventually lead to bankruptcies among state enterprises, which in addition to providing work also offer homes, medical care and other benefits to millions of workers.

Official statistics show that a third of state enterprises are operating at a loss. The losses of another third are bidden by government loans and band-aids.

Meanwhile, a Shanghai enterprise has become the city's first state firm to file for bankruptcy, but 10 more state firms are expected to follow.

The Hong Kong daily Wen Wei Po reported that the Shanghai number two weave band

factory had made the move last month.

Although over 50 rural cooperatives and service-related businesses in Shanghai went bankrupt between 1992 and 1993, the textile company was the first state firm to file for bankruptcy, the daily said.

Under China's economic reforms, Beijing is gradually removing subsidies for state enterprises which are often highly inefficient.

Forcing state industry to stand on its own would also help Beijing to cut its huge budget deficit but Chinese leaders have expressed concern about the resulting rise in unemployment.

The daily blamed the deteriorating performances of state firms on poor management, confused leadership and heavy debt and losses.

Municipal statistics show state firms in Shanghai owed debts totalling 87.9 billion yuan (\$10 billion for the first 11 months of 1993, with total assets worth 118.8 billion yuan (\$13.7 billion).

## Bundesbank cuts money market rate, but pace slows

FRANKFURT (R) — The Bundesbank gingerly nudged German money market rates lower Wednesday but the tiny cut reflected slowing in the pace of recent declines.

The Bundesbank allowed the securities repurchase rate or "repo," its leading money market rate, to drop three basis points to 5.75 per cent from 5.76 per cent the prior week.

Although in line with market expectations, the cut still reinforced the German central bank's commitment to lower rates and German financial markets gained on the news.

cent from December but last month started to let it ease. The pace of the cuts has slowed in the past two weeks and analysts say this could be an effort to mop up the bad any market speculation of a discount rate cut at the Bundesbank's next council meeting on April 14, its first in a month.

The discount rate, the floor to German interest rates, stands at 5.25 per cent.

This week the Bundesbank whittled three basis points off the repo rate after last week's four-basis-point decline. These falls are considerably smaller than the two that preceded them of eight and six basis points.

"They could be sending an early sign that they still have room left before cutting the discount rate," said Gerhard Grebe, senior economist at Bank Julius Baer. Mr. Grebe said the repo rate could fall to about 5.40 per cent before it would begin to put technical pressure on the 5.25 per cent discount rate.

The Bundesbank had held the repo rate steady at six per

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 7, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** One of the best days of the month for planning to put your life on a more secure structure as you follow a sensible course of action for the future in which you can express your best talents.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Don't waste time arguing about unimportant matters. A pecky situation arises, but take time and think before you handle it in a reasonable manner.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You may feel that the plans you have are right and associates should agree with them, but you have to be tactful to gain your wishes at this time.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have to use much care in regular routines now or you could invite trouble. Take care of a health matter now to prevent it from getting worse.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be kind and generous to those who mean a great deal to you. Save your money so you'll have it when you need it in an emergency.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Strive to gain the benefits that should be yours, but be tactful in approaching others. Express happiness to those you are very fond of.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Don't fret about not being able to handle outside affairs. Don't jeopardise your position with high-ups with any negative ideas or conversation.

**CAPRICORN:** (January 22 to January 19) You have to use diplomacy with others today and not expect any favours. Forget the personal and work on new business plans.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Don't risk a higher up in any way now or you could regret it later. Show others that you are an excellent citizen by doing some important project.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Go to the right sources for the information you need. The planets are most favourable for making progress in career matters in your near future.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You are tempted to argue with an ally, but this would be

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 8, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

positive manner. Avoid one who is detrimental to your progress in the eyes of higher-ups.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Much care in motion is necessary now since either you or others could make mistakes. Strive for increased happiness for yourself and loved ones.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Use good common sense to business matters now and don't delve into any financial deals that are shady. Steer clear of trouble at this time.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You could make a wrong decision in a business matter today, so stall for time and wait for another day to make these important decisions.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19) Friends could cause you to get involved in activities that are not good for you, so keep your distance for the time being to prevent problems.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have a good chance to get ahead in career activities if you get an early start today. Making new contacts is wise now.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Having a more modern approach in personal dealings with others makes you more popular now. Think along optimistic lines for a new project.

**DONALD:** (March 21 to April 19) Work hard and wise now or you will surely regret it later. Try to please your mate more to have much pleasure.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Know what you: greatest aims are and go after them in a

wise now.

**NOEL:** (October 20 to November 18) Take care of your health now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (December 19 to January 17) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (January 18 to February 15) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (February 16 to March 13) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (March 14 to April 11) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (April 12 to May 9) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (May 10 to June 7) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (June 8 to July 5) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

**RONALD:** (July 6 to August 3) Don't be afraid to take a chance now or you will surely regret it later.

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## S. African leaders oppose delay of Natal vote; death toll soars

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The death toll in Natal province soared to more than 100 Wednesday despite a six-day-old state of emergency, but political leaders rejected the idea of delaying voting in the region.

The latest police report on political deaths in Natal put the toll at 111 since Thursday as the Zulu stronghold experienced one of its worst surges in factional fighting in years.

A committee representing the South African government, Zulu nationalists and the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), which is organising national elections on April 26-28, concluded Tuesday it was not possible to hold fair elections in Natal when the rest of the country goes to polls.

The province, which includes the Zulu homeland of KwaZulu, has been under a state of emergency since Thursday to quell political violence between pro- and anti-election forces. Violence has increased in the run-up to the national election — the first to include South Africa's black majority — as Zulu nationalists demanding sovereignty try to block voting in their stronghold.

There has been speculation political leaders will delay the vote in Natal while allowing the country's three other provinces to vote on April 26-28.

But Judge Johann Krieger, the head of the IEC, said Wednesday the political climate, not the election date, needed changing. African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer agreed.

"As far as I'm concerned, that would not be a viable option," Mr. Meyer said of a possible delay in Natal voting.

"We would run into constitutional problems... we would run into political problems as far as the tensions that would flow from such a decision," he said on Radio 702, a Johannesburg station.

Earlier, Mr. Mandela told the radio the state of emergency must be given more time to take effect before a delay is considered. "It's premature to regard the declaration of the state of emergency as a failure," he said in response to callers on a phone-in show. "I think we should be patient and give the security forces more time to mobilise."

His comments were surprisingly conciliatory given the ANC's earlier pressures on President F.W. De Klerk to crack down in Natal. Mr. De Klerk ordered the state of emergency after demands from the ANC, which accuses KwaZulu police and some South African Security forces of insti-

gating violence in Natal.

ANC officials in Natal have complained the emergency declaration has failed to provide adequate security for black township residents, and police Wednesday outlined a week of random shootings, stabbings, burnings and mayhem across the vast province.

At least 300 people died in Natal in March, and thousands have been killed there since the war between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party began in the mid-1980s.

The report Tuesday said peaceful and fair elections would be impossible in Natal in the current political climate. It cited the "high level" of political intolerance and fear; large-scale intimidation; the failure of KwaZulu authorities to assist in free and fair elections; and the inability of South African police to protect the entire region during elections.

A summit is planned Friday involving the key players in the controversy — Mr. Mandela, Mr. De Klerk, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, and KwaZulu Chief Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr. Buthelezi and King Goodwill oppose the election on grounds it will lead to the extinction of KwaZulu and — they say — of the Zulu culture.

### Clinton 'has been subjected to false charges'

CHARLOTTE, NC, (R) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday he had been falsely accused in the Whitewater controversy and the American people should trust him and get "a little perspective" on the affair.

Mr. Clinton gave a testy defence when two people questioned him during a televised town hall meeting about the tangle of financial and ethical dealings dogging his presidency.

"I have been the subject, sir, of false charges," he told one man from Bristol, Tennessee who listed what he said were Mr. Clinton's broken campaign promises on taxes and foreign policy and then asked him why people should believe in his credibility on the Whitewater saga.

"People saying things about me that are not true don't make my credibility an issue. That makes their credibility an issue, not mine," the president said.

"I think you ought to trust me," Mr. Clinton said. "You are free to disagree with me but disagreement is different from trust. We ought not to

mix apples and oranges."

Earlier a soft-spoken young woman from Charlotte had also asked Mr. Clinton about Whitewater, telling him many Americans were "having a hard time with your credibility" because of the controversy and the reports that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton turned a \$1,000 stake into a \$100,000 profit in the commodities markets 15 years ago.

"How can you earn back our trust?" the unidentified woman asked plaintively.

"What we need is a little perspective here," the president said.

Mr. Clinton said that his wife had taken risks in her commodities trading in 1978-79, lost money as well as made it and "it's just not true" that she got preferential treatment at the markets.

"No one has accused us of doing anything illegal. We were attacked for losing money, we've been attacked for making money," Mr. Clinton said.

Answering the only question on foreign policy, Mr. Clinton said he had "a lot of options

short of the military option" to derail North Korea's fledgling nuclear weapons programme, but suggested that he would rely mainly on economic pressure.

Mr. Clinton said he believes financial markets are over-reacting to recent interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank.

"I do think that the markets are overreacting to what the Fed did. I hope that they will settle down. I hope the stock market will settle down. I hope the interest rates will go back down," Mr. Clinton said.

The townhall meeting was broadcast by several NBC television affiliates.

President Clinton said that America's medical problems were getting "lost in a cloud of hot air" from lobbyists opposing his health care plan.

He toured Montgomery Memorial Hospital in Troy, some 60 miles east of Charlotte, North Carolina, as part of a blitz of administration activity to promote his reform plan before Congress returns from a recess next week.

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But the gap between the governing party and its main opposition had narrowed to seven points from nine points, compared with a similar poll published on March 11.

SPD leader Rudolf Scharping saw his personal popularity rating fall three points to 39 per cent, but he was still ahead of Mr. Kohl, who gained five points to score 33 per cent.

### Poll: Kohl's CDU closes gap with SPD

BONN (R) — The gap between support for Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) and Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) has narrowed seven months before national elections, an opinion poll published Wednesday said.

The poll of 1001 potential electors, conducted for the weekly *Die Zeit* by the Infrasur Burke Institute, showed that voter support for the SPD had risen two points to 29 per

cent and the CDU was up five points to 23 per cent from 18 per cent.

But the gap between the governing party and its main opposition had narrowed to seven points from nine points, compared with a similar poll published on March 11.

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### Hosokawa's 'I quit' remark sparks furor

TOKYO (R) — Japan's embattled Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa denied Wednesday he had even uttered in jest the words "I quit," but his disclaimer failed to quash speculation that his days as leader were numbered.

Mr. Hosokawa's inability to shake off allegations of shady financial deal-making in the 1980s has damaged his reputation as an anti-corruption warrior, paralysed parliament and prompted the opposition to call for his resignation.

The Japanese news media, increasingly sceptical of Mr. Hosokawa's account of his past deals, went into a frenzy after two independent lawmakers revealed that Mr. Hosokawa had joked about quitting over dinner Tuesday.

But Wednesday, the "joke" was headline news in most of Japan's top dailies and the main item on television talk shows.

"I never said anything about quitting," a smiling Hosokawa told reporters Wednesday. "I said absolutely nothing that could have been taken to mean I would resign."

He was more serious in denying what happened when he met later with concerned members of his Japan New Party (JNP), one of eight partners in the ruling coalition that came

to power last August on promises of stamping out rampant official graft.

"I was drinking with the two lawmakers last night... but I didn't say I wanted to resign. Nor did the thought cross my mind," Mr. Hosokawa said, according to JNP lawmakers, according to news reports.

Masayoshi Takemura, the chief government spokesman, who recently had a falling out with Mr. Hosokawa, was less than supportive Wednesday.

"The prime minister must have made a remark that could be linked to resigning," he told a news conference. "He must be more careful about making remarks that could give rise to misunderstandings."

Mr. Takemura said also it was time for the ruling coalition to consider the opposition's demands that Mr. Hosokawa allow a full probe of old loans to break a stalemate in parliament that has delayed passage of the nation's now overdue 1994-95 budget.

"We want to... take some action so that parliament can resume the budget debate by next week," he said.

Mr. Hosokawa has insisted the 100 million yen (\$980,000) he received in 1982 from Sagawa Kyubin, a trucking company involved in a 1992-93 payoff scandal, was a loan he

had repaid by 1991.

The opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) says it suspect the money was used illicitly to fund Mr. Hosokawa's successful bid for election as governor of Kumamoto, in southern Japan, in February 1983.

They are holding the budget hostage to push demands that Mr. Hosokawa produce receipts proving he repaid the Sagawa money, and that he allow his former aide in charge of finances to testify in parliament on the affair.

LDP lawmakers also want a financial consultant to appear before parliament to clear up doubts about a cheap loan Mr. Hosokawa is said to have received in 1986 that enabled him to make a huge profit on a new share issue.

LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori said it was only a matter of time before Mr. Hosokawa actually did step down.

"I think he really did say he wants to quit because it's about time for him to go," Mr. Mori said in television remarks.

"It's been our job to show that he was involved in some dubious affairs and how it's up to him to decide whether he'll resign or dissolve parliament for elections," he said.

Mr. Wei, known as the father of China's modern Democracy Movement, was paroled in September after serving 14½ years of 15-year jail sentence.

The 43-year-old activist was grabbed by police Friday while returning to Beijing from the nearby port of Tianjin and had not been seen since by relatives or colleagues.

Mr. Wei's sister, Wei Ling, said Wednesday that police had told her father the activist would be held "for a time". They rejected the father's request to see his son, saying that any family visits would have to wait.

Wei Ling said a squad of police had raided Mr. Wei's office Monday, presumably looking for evidence against him.

Mr. Tong, who maintained close relations with the foreign press in Beijing, has not been heard from since China announced Tuesday that Mr. Wei was being "interrogated and placed under surveillance... because he violated the law on many occasions and is suspected of having committed new crimes when he was deprived of his political rights and on parole."

Mr. Wei, known as the father of China's modern Democracy Movement, was paroled in September after serving 14½ years of 15-year jail sentence.

He said American diplomats

expected to win the vote and plans to eliminate all tribal homelands, including KwaZulu, and create a unitary state where all ethnic groups live as one.

Meanwhile, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Tuesday he wanted the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party to make a "huge effort" at conciliation before he and Britain's Lord Carrington arrive in South Africa on a mediation mission.

Mr. Kissinger, in an interview with Cable News Network in New York, said mediation will not begin until after Mr. Buthelezi, King Goodwill, Mr. Mandela and President De

Klerk meet Friday.

"What they should do is make a huge effort to narrow their differences before we get there," Mr. Kissinger is quoted as saying in a partial transcript of the CNN interview. "We're going there to facilitate we're not there as principals."

Mr. Kissinger said he and Lord Carrington are expected to begin there to visit South Africa on April 12 and end it on April 22. He rejected any suggestion that he and Lord Carrington will take an outline of an agreement with them.

"No. That would be a disaster. We can narrow the differences they define. We cannot substitute for them."



A South African policeman tries to persuade a Zulu man to give up his spear. Zulus consider spears defying the state of emergency regulations banning such weapons (AFP photo)

## North Korea opens parliament against nuclear crisis backdrop

TOKYO (R) — North Korean President Kim Il-Sung opened the spring session of the Stalinist nation's rubber-stamp parliament Wednesday against a backdrop of deepening crisis over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear ambitions.

Mr. Kim's chosen heir, eldest son Kim Jong-Il, also attended the inaugural session of the Supreme People's Assembly, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

KCNA monitored in Tokyo, said the agenda included a report on the cash-strapped nation's economic performance, approval of the fiscal 1994 state budget and formal endorsement of laws previously approved by the assembly's standing committee.

Unmentioned in the brief dispatch was the alarmist situation set out Tuesday in an apocalyptic KCNA dispatch that warned of gathering war clouds and a scenario closely resembling the days before the Korean War broke out in 1950.

"A touch-and-go situation is prevailing on the Korean peninsula in which a war may break out any moment," the official agency said.

The atmosphere in North East Asia, increasingly tense over the past year as North Korea blocked full U.N. inspection of its nuclear facil-

ties, took another turn for the worse last Thursday. That was when the U.N. Security Council issued a formal statement urging Pyongyang to allow unfettered checks.

The North Monday denounced the statement, accusing the Council of dancing to America's tune.

In Tuesday's despatch, KCNA gave a stark warning that all the factors needed to spark another conflict in Korea were falling into place.

The agency said the United States was planning to stage provocative large-scale war games, deploy Patriot missiles in the South and ship in additional U.S. troops and weapons, purportedly to counter a North Korean "attack."

With these and a string of other ominous developments, the agency said, "facts tell that the situation on the Korean peninsula resembles that on the eve of the past Korean War."

Later Tuesday, the U.S. Defense Department confirmed that the United States and South Korea were likely to hold their joint Team Spirit war games this year because of North Korea's continuing refusal to allow inspection of its nuclear sites to determine whether weapons-grade plutonium is being secretly diverted.

A Pentagon spokeswoman

said no final decision had been made on how and when to conduct this year's Team Spirit, which was suspended by Washington and Seoul in March to encourage nuclear cooperation by the North.

Team Spirit would be a major topic of discussion during a planned visit to South Korea in mid-April by U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, she added.

The spokeswoman added that the first of two shiploads of Patriot air defence missiles were leaving California for South Korea Tuesday despite North Korea's warnings that the move could prompt war. The second ship would leave shortly.

The Supreme People's Assembly met Wednesday amidst further reports that the phased power handover from Kim Il-Sung, 82 next week, to his son was on the point of completion.

The South Korean News Agency, Yonhap, reported that a senior pro-Pyongyang Korean resident of Japan had said in Tokyo Tuesday that Kim Jong-Il had finally taken over the reins.

Yonhap quoted Ho Jong-Man as saying: "Workers' Party Secretary Kim Jong-Il has taken over power in politics. The economy and the military from his father Kim Il-Sung."

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"We remain faithful to our principles in telling our hosts that we are not satisfied with the current situation. At the same time, we defend France's interests," he said.

A French diplomatic source put it more prosaically: "This trip is adapted to what the Chinese accept and to the needs of Franco-Chinese relations."

NIAMEY (R) — Attackers believed to be Islamic militants assaulted young women wearing miniskirts and sporting braided hairstyles in the central Niger town of Maradi, state-run radio reported. It said groups of zealots roamed streets and marketplaces smashing brothels and beating women they considered immodestly dressed but did not say how many women were hurt or the extent of their injuries. Authorities in the town, 650 kilometres east of Niamey, said they would find and severely punish the attackers, who rampaged over two days.

Cows may step out in fluorescent leggings

LONDON (R) — Environmentalists want to fit cows in a British village with fluorescent leggings to stop them being hit by cars. Under a law dating from the middle ages, farmers are allowed to graze their animals on Westwood pasture in the northeast English county of Humberside, but nearly 40 cows have been killed and many more injured by cars in the last two years when they wander from the pasture on to busy roads. Environmental



## Serbs block U.N. general from Gorazde, press assault

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs stopped the U.N. commander from visiting Gorazde on Wednesday, but their advance into the besieged Muslim enclave appeared to slow.

Lieutenant-General Michael Rose's attempt to personally assess the situation in the eastern enclave came after Serb troops broke through outer defence lines and fought their way to within a few kilometres of the town of Gorazde itself. Hundreds of civilians reportedly fled burning villages on the outskirts of the enclave.

It was unclear why Gen. Rose did not proceed beyond Pale, the Serb headquarters just southeast of Sarajevo. He told reporters Serb officials cited "security reasons."

But three U.N. military observers and eight British liaison officers were allowed to proceed, U.N. officials said.

A spokesman, Major Rob Annink said it was decided at Pale it would be "illegal" for Gen. Rose to insist on going to Gorazde when the liaison officers could report back to him.

On the second anniversary of the outbreak of the Bosnian war, Maj. Annink also said U.N. officials had received an "important" proposal from Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic for a general ceasefire in Bosnia. He gave no details.

Serbs and the Muslim-led government have mostly observed a truce around Sarajevo since Feb. 10, but fighting has continued elsewhere in the former Yugoslav republic.

Maj. Annink said earlier that the Serb attack towards the town of Gorazde, 55 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo, had halted after running into entrenched defences. "Our assessment is that

Gorazde is not in danger of falling," he said. "It is very well defended."

Bosnian government radio said Serbs continued to assault government troops defending the enclave.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, citing a Bosnian Serb military statement, said Serb troops had occupied the village of Bujin, four kilometres south of Gorazde, and were fighting to "liberate Serb villages" in the area.

The Gorazde enclave is about 20 kilometres long and 15 kilometres wide, divided by the Drina River. The area is home to an estimated 65,000 people, many of the refugees.

With Serb forces reported to have made major advances towards the town, a U.N. spokesman said 12 people including three children had been killed and 52 people wounded over the past 24 hours.

The casualties were reported as Bosnia marked the second anniversary of the war, which most consider broke out when Serb guns shelled nearby Sarajevo on April 6, 1992.

The casualty toll in Gorazde since the latest Serb assault began on March 29 was now 64 killed, including 10 children, and 301 wounded, including 36 children, said Peter Kessler, spokesman to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

He said UNHCR staff in Gorazde had confirmed 1,000 people had been displaced from outlying villages by the fighting, which had brought the Serbs to within about three kilometres from the town centre.

The United Nations said Bosnian Serb forces had on Tuesday advanced up to 10

kilometres into the Gorazde pocket.

But Bosnian Serb advances from the east and north east had been halted and the Muslim forces still held crucial high ground which the Serbs would need to take if they wanted to advance further, according to Maj. Annink.

The United States said the fall of Gorazde would be a setback for the peace process in Bosnia.

But in the face of calls from the Bosnian government for international action to stop the assault, America's top general ruled out using the threat of air strikes to break the siege, as happened in Sarajevo.

"Right now, it is our judgment that conditions in Gorazde do not lend themselves to the use of air power," General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a news conference on Tuesday.

But he said the situation could change, and "if the conditions are right, we will use air power to mitigate the behaviour of the Serbs."

Bosnian radio reported Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic had sent a letter to the U.N. Security Council to remind them of Resolution 824, which declared Gorazde a U.N.-protected area of 10

km². The speculation in the Senate is that Senator Mitchell is the clear favourite," Sen. Hank Brown, a judiciary committee member, said in an appearance on NBC Television. "As a matter of fact, it might have been a factor in his decision to leave the Senate."

Mr. Blackmun's high court tenure was marked by his role in the 1973 abortion decision and subsequent abortion rulings. His authorship of Roe vs. Wade made him one of the most vilified supreme court members in history, though he remains a hero to proponents of legalised abortion.

## Blackmun retires

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Harry A. Blackmun, author of the landmark Roe vs. Wade decision that legalised abortion nationwide 21 years ago, announced his retirement Wednesday.

"I shall miss the court, its work and its relationships," Mr. Blackmun said. "But I leave it in good hands." Mr. Blackmun said he had told President Bill Clinton of his plans several months ago, leaving the president plenty of time to consider a successor.

Mr. Blackmun, 85, said in a written statement that "I advised both the president and the chief justice some months ago that this would be my last term in active service on the court. I am now writing the president formally that I shall assume retirement status" when the court ends its 1993-94 term in late June, or when a successor is confirmed.

The departure of Mr. Blackmun gives Mr. Clinton his second opportunity to make a high court appointment. Mr. Clinton named Ruth Bader Ginsburg last year.

Early speculation Wednesday centred on Senate majority leader George Mitchell, or possibly Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt.

"The speculation in the Senate is that Senator Mitchell is the clear favourite," Sen. Hank Brown, a judiciary committee member, said in an appearance on NBC Television. "As a matter of fact, it might have been a factor in his decision to leave the Senate."

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## Hebron victims remembered

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to attend a special ceremony held at the Khalil Al Rahman Society in Amman to mark 40 days since the massacre of dozens of Palestinian worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron. Speakers at the ceremony condemned the massacre as a "heinous crime."

"The blood of martyrs will always be a beacon lighting the way of the Palestinian people's struggle to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil," said a speaker.

Speakers also lauded Jordan's stands taken immediately following the massacre and affirmed the importance of preserving the

historical relations between Jordan and Palestinians.

Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim delivered an address on behalf of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat extolling the martyrs of the massacre and the sacrifices offered by the Palestinian people in their struggle to achieve their national rights.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Al Masri stressed in his address that the souls of the martyrs would know no rest until the goals they lived and died for are achieved. He stressed that massacres committed by the occupation authorities and the settlers would not achieve their machinations.

Upper House of Parliament member Kamel Al Sharif who delivered an address on behalf of Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi said the Hebron massacre proves beyond doubt that co-existence with the Zionist movement is impossible.

## COLUMN 10

### Errant British aristocrat arrested... again

LONDON (R) — The heir one of the top aristocratic titles in Britain was arrested last Thursday after he failed to turn up in court to answer the charges. Police said the arrested the wayward marquis, Jamie Blandford, in West London. The former drug user and convicted drunk driver was picked up while sitting in a car with another man less than hours after missing the court appearance. Judge Alan Bain ordered police to arrest the 38-year-old heir to the Duke of Marlborough. Apart from charge of stealing a chequered book, Marquess Blandford also accused of running a without paying a taxi fare. The marquis, whose antics regularly feature in Britain's tabloid newspapers, has had several brushes with the law in the past few years, including offences of drug possession.

Earlier Tuesday, Marquess Blandford left his central London residence saying he had overslept and was on his way to court. But a court spokesman said he never arrived. In previous incident he climbed down a drainpipe to avoid police. Marquess Blandford who stands to inherit the historic £100 million (\$150 million) Blenheim Palace estate when his father dies, recent spent three days in jail after failing to pay maintenance to his estranged wife and his son.

Sudanese diplomats could not recall the last time a Sudanese plane was hijacked. Abdulla Seif, deputy director of Luxor airport, identified the hijacker as Adel Mahjoub Hussein Mohammad Ahmed. The plane was on its way from Khartoum to the northern town of Dongola when the man threatened the pilot and told him to head for Cairo, airport sources said.

The hijacker surrendered about 90 minutes later.

Sudanese diplomats could not recall the last time a Sudanese plane was hijacked.

Salah Ibrahim, press counselor at the Sudanese embassy in Cairo, said most of the passengers on internal flights were Sudanese but no list was immediately available.

"We are still waiting for the crew to return to Khartoum to get more details. They are just refuelling now and will be on their way soon," he said.

## Sudanese hijack ends in Luxor

CAIRO (Agencies) — A lone hijacker claiming he had a pistol and a bomb commandeered a Sudanese plane to the southern Egypt resort of Luxor on Wednesday, then surrendered to Egyptian authorities.

Security officials at Cairo international airport said the Sudan Airways Boeing 727 was seized during a domestic flight from Khartoum to Dongola, a historic Nile River town 465 kilometres northwest of the capital. It carried 93 passengers, all Sudanese, and six crew members.

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## IRA begins three-day truce

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (Agencies) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) began a three-day ceasefire Wednesday aimed at pressuring the British government into talks with its political ally, Sinn Fein.

Many Belfast people are not expecting peace to break out or the IRA to extend its experimental truce — but suspect that the British would like to switch up a secret deal with their enemies if they could get away with it.

The British and Irish governments in December offered Sinn Fein peace talks if the IRA gave up its 24-year campaign. The street wisdom is that the three-day ceasefire is not nearly enough to swing that deal, but it's a start.

"Sure the British have been saying for a long time how much they'd like to be rid of Northern Ireland. The ceasefire is Sinn Fein's way of saying they want out of the stalemate too," said Conor Maguire, a Roman Catholic student at Queen's University in Belfast.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party which is opposed to any steps towards reunifying Ireland, told reporters he was convinced the British government had contacted the IRA through an intermediary.

He said London had agreed to give to the IRA and Sinn Fein the "clarification" they have demanded of last December's Anglo-Irish declaration which offered talks in return for a permanent end to insurrection.

But at a news conference in London, Sinn Fein spokesman Tom Hartley denied Mr. Robinson's claim, telling reporters: "I am not aware of any contact that the British government is having with Republicans at this point in time. Certainly they don't have any contact with Sinn Fein."

British Prime Minister John Major has dismissed the three-day truce as an inadequate and cynical gesture and publicly refused to talk.

But Mr. Robinson, echoing fears widespread throughout Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, said he believed a secret deal with the IRA would eventually be done.

"This prime minister is not a

prime minister who is going to stand up to the IRA," he said. "The government's programme is to end violence by surrendering to the IRA. That is through a declaration set out to do."

"I believe they are already having contact through an intermediary," Mr. Robinson said.

Britain admitted last year secret contacts with Sinn Fein to treat the IRA ceasefire as a gesture of the utmost importance and use it to reestablish contact to clarify the declaration.

Mr. Robinson said he believed Sinn Fein was calling for higher-level, direct contacts with the British government.

Political observers say recognition from London, through face-to-face talks, is more important to Sinn Fein, which is supported by about 10 per cent of Northern Ireland's voters, than actual clarification of the declaration.

## Algeria forces said to kill dozens in 'revenge raid'

PARIS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces killed dozens of suspected Muslim fundamentalists and left their bodies in the streets in a revenge raid on the Islamist stronghold of Blida two weeks ago, witnesses and diplomats said.

Paratroopers rounded up young men in night raids in a major operation to avenge murdered security men and to try to break the Islamists' control over the city, 50 kilometres south of Algiers, they said.

The reported killings appeared to illustrate a statement by Prime Minister Redha Malek last month that "fear must change sides," signalling a tougher crackdown on Islamic militants fighting to overthrow his army-backed government.

He said a few people were killed before clan elders could end the fighting Tuesday night, but he could not give precise casualty figures. He said it was the latest in a series of clashes between the two factions over the past week in Blida, which is 96 kilometres south of Mogadishu.

No U.N. forces were involved in the fighting, said Mr. Iqbal.

The continuing clashes in Blida come after Somali faction leaders agreed last month in Nairobi to a ceasefire and to open peace talks in Mogadishu on April 15.

It began after a commercial strike by Islamic groups in the city on March 19, during which guerrillas killed five military gendarmes and a policeman.

That night, paratroopers went from door to door, accompanied by hooded informers, rounding up suspected fundamentalists.

Fourteen men were found lying two-by-two with their throats slit on doorsteps and in the streets the following morning.

Le Monde quoted one witness who said she saw in her street the bodies of six young men — the youngest aged 18 — riddled with bullets and showing signs of torture.

A further 10 suspected Islamists were taken away the following night and found with their throats slit the next morning close to the city's sports stadium.

A spokesman for the Algerian president's office, contacted by telephone, had no immediate comment.

Diplomats and the Islamic opposition have reported a spate of attacks by secularist vigilantes they believe are linked to or a cover for the security forces.

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